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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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VA awards $891K for outreach clinic in CNMI. PAGE 2

Anatahan emergency declaration extended anew. PAGE 5

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of confidence that CUC will be able to meet Saipan's demand for power when the Aggreko contract ends in September?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 28, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

New Case

A photographer has sued R&B singer Chris Brown, saying Brown's bodyguards beat him up.

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Finance changing rules to allow video lottery in NMI

May pave way for Bridge Capital to operate games at La Fiesta

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance is proposing to amend its own regulations to, among other things, allow the operation of video lottery games, which Bridge Capital LLC proposes to operate at the long-vacant La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Bridge Capital was the only firm that responded to Finance's request for proposal involving the lease, development, or revitalization of La Fiesta Mall.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who was the Fi-

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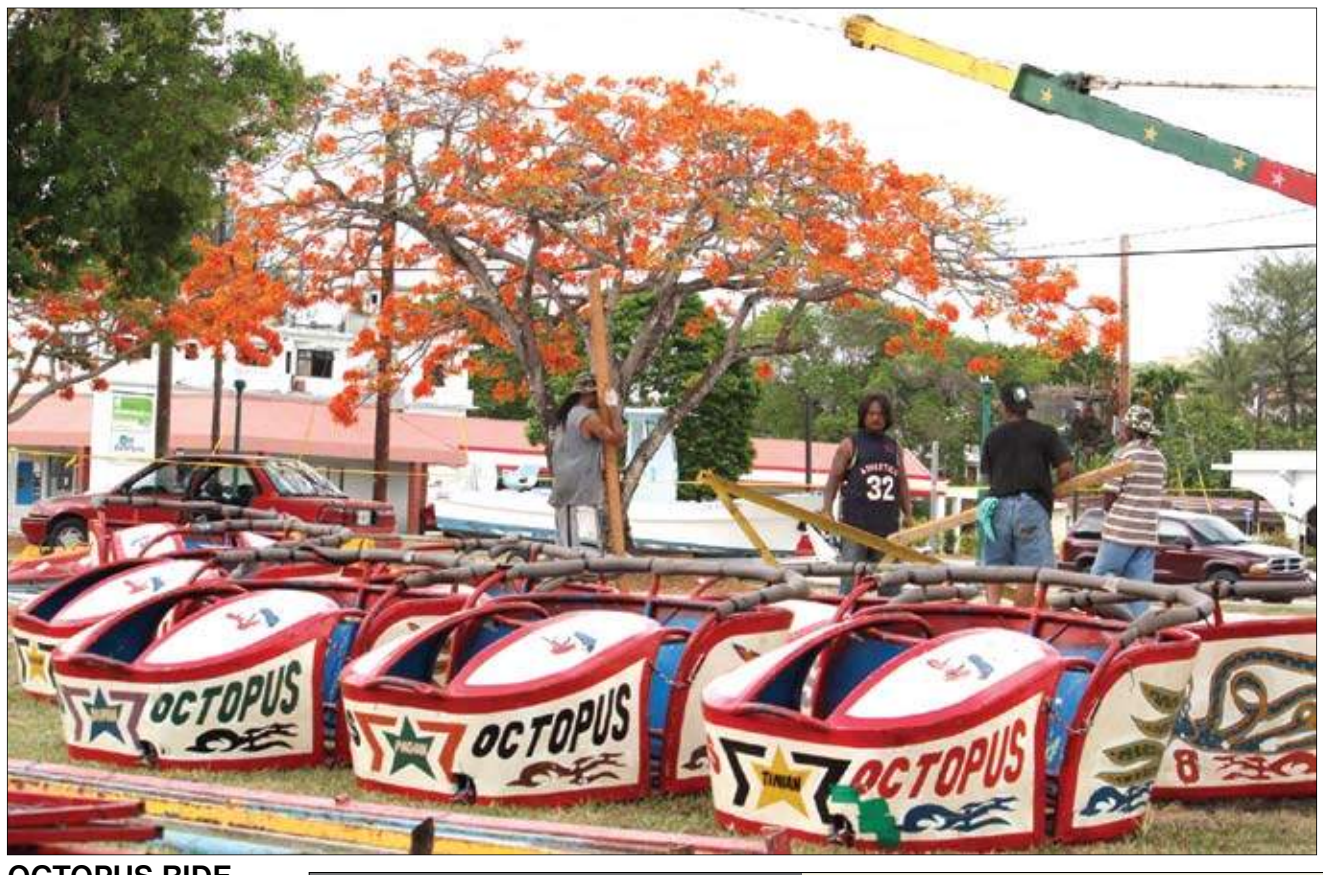

OCTOPUS RIDE

A group of men install the octopus ride at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday afternoon, in time for the Liberation Day festivities which will kick off on June 5 and end on July 5.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

25 school administrators not yet certified

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Sablan

Barely two years before the federal mandate to fill all public schools with highly qualified teachers and certified administrators, the Public School System admits that there are still 25 administrators who have yet to become fully certified and are

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Independent contract eyed for some top CPA posts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Camacho

A proposal to amend the employment contracts of some top management positions at the Commonwealth Ports Authority to make them independent contractors was presented to the board of directors during Wednesday's special meeting.

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HANMI to DHS:

Allow NMI hotels continued access to alien workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is urging the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to take a lenient approach in crafting labor regulations to allow hotels continued access to foreign workers, which make up around 64 percent of hotel employees in the CNMI.

"Unfortunately, these regulations are still pending, and great uncertainty still exists over how the CNMI guest worker program

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Local

VA awards $891K for outreach clinic in CNMI

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently awarded the CNMI $891,235 to build an outreach clinic on Saipan that would provide free health care to over 900 veterans.

This amount is part of the 74 awards that VA announced last week for veterans in rural areas, according to an e-mail from Bob Schwalbach, chief of staff of CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan.

At present, veterans in the CNMI have no direct access to local heath care services and have to go to Guam or Hawaii for treatments. As a result this award, the VA will be able to contract with a local health clinic to provide primary care services for them.

The outreach clinic would allow veterans to receive care consistent with VA national access standards.

Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Veterans and Military Affairs Office, announced during the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday that the outreach clinic will be opened by the end of this year.

The grant, which is part of an initiative in 2007, would also allow health care providers in Guam to come to the CNMI periodically to care for veterans.

Schwalbach said that Sablan met with the VA Medical Center director, James E. Hastings, MD, in Honolulu in March to talk about the clinic and to encourage VA to reach out to veterans in the Marianas.

"Kilili is very grateful to Dr. Hastings for his work on this and to General Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, for understanding the plight of veterans in the Northern Marianas, who unlike their counterparts in any other area of the U.S., can't get into their car and drive to a VA hospital for help," he said.

He added that Sablan believes this is just the beginning of an effort by the VA to ramp up its activities in the CNMI.

According to Schwalbach, Sablan will use his position in Congress to help make that happen. "He also recognizes that veterans on Rota and Tinian have to be taken cared of too. It's not enough to have a clinic on Saipan," he said.

VA official records show a total of 926 veterans in the CNMI but Schwalbach said only 202 veterans are currently "enrolled." ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Public's patience sought in line clearing operations

The Power Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is asking the public to be patient as it conducts line-clearing operations in massively vegetated areas around Saipan.

Division manager Gary Camacho said the current clearing operation is a top priority but it takes a lot of time to accomplish since they lack personnel and resources.

"We have only two bucket trucks right now but we are making headway. Our staff is diligent in their efforts," Camacho said.

A resident in As Perdido complained yesterday about CUC's alleged slow action in cutting off branches of a mango tree that is touching an open high wire. Jack Muña said this situation poses a great danger to the people at the Muña compound, especially children.

Muña said he informed CUC about the situation three weeks ago and was promised that the problem would be fixed.

"They never came back. After two weeks, I called them again and nothing has been done," Muña said. "If anybody touches the tree they may be electrocuted. I'm trying to make a sign for people not to touch the tree. This is really a high voltage line and I don't want a repeat of what happened sometime ago in Chalan Kanoa when a man was electrocuted."

He said the lot's owner, Douglas Brennan, asked him to contact CUC to fix the problem as soon as possible.

Camacho said he already talked with Muña on the phone yesterday to inform him about clearing operations that have been scheduled in the area today.

The clearing operations, he said, will not just be on Muña's compound but also in some parts within that area in As Perdido.

"We have received a lot of requests [and] we are doing our best to accommodate their requests," Camacho said.

Line clearing had already been done in some areas in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa. It is also being planned in San Vicente. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

May
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Man convicted of sexual abuse agrees to be deported

A Palau citizen who was convicted in 2006 of sexually abusing a child has agreed to be deported to Palau.

Collier N. Siksei signed an agreement for his deportation with the Division of Immigration, represented by assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell.

Siksei and Busenkell agreed that rather than proceeding with a hearing to explain why he should not be deported, they are amenable to an order of deportation.

The respondent did not dispute that he is a Palau citizen and a deportable alien in that he was convicted of sexual abuse of a child—a felony.

In her declaration, Busenkell said that, on May 12, 2009, Siksei came to her office, asking to be repatriated to his native country of Palau.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted the stipulation and ordered the deportation of the 36-year-old Siksei.

According to court papers, Siksei repeatedly sexually abused a 10-year-old girl in 2001, including at a jungle near the San Antonio Elementary School.

In 2006, Siksei entered a guilty plea to sexual abuse of a child. He was sentenced to three years in prison, with credit for time already served in jail.

Siksei was among the 24 students who received certificates of course completion from the Northern Marianas Trade Institute in Lower Base last April. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHC unveils pergola project for patients

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

With the main structure already built and the plants starting to grow, mental health patients of the Commonwealth Health Center may now enjoy fresh air at the new "Pergola Project."

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Shown in photo are acting Health Secretary Pedro T. Untalan, Kaye Christian of the Mental Health Planning Commission, Soraya Rayphand (designer of the Pergola Project seen in the background), Jeanne Rayphand of Northern Marinas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and Tilde Rosario of the Commonwealth Guidance Center.

The project was initiated to help improve mental health facilities and services at the CHC Psychiatric Unit.

The Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI, the Mental Health Planning Council, and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. joined forces to raise funds for this project.

This pergola project consists of part of the courtyard of the CHC Psychiatric Unit that was improved with the construction of a pergola and planting flowering plants and banana fruits. There is also a basketball court that patients can use for exercise during their recovery period.

MHPC chair Kaye Christian, who is coordinating the project, said this started a year ago.

"We still have some fundraising to do because we want some more improvements before we officially present it next year," Christian said during the soft opening yesterday.

Present were acting Health Secretary Pedro T. Untalan, Jeannre Rayphand of NMPASI, Josephine Sablan of CHC, Tilde Rosario of the Commonwealth Guidance Center and Soraya Rayphand, who designed the pergola project.

The project is called pergola because the materials and the design are patterned from Bali, Indonesia. Rayphand is from Bali.

Community support is being solicited to complete the project. For more details, contact Kaye Christian at 288-5293 or 483-5293 (cell).

The courtyard was opened to the public from 4pm to 5:30pm yesterday for them to see what progress has been made on the project and how beautiful the courtyard will be for the use of psychiatric patients.

Tim's lawyer: US govt using a strategy of intimidation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan, lead counsel for former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, called it a "strategy of intimidation" the U.S. government's motion to compel him and his co-defense lawyers to disclose the identity of the person who disclosed that some of the witnesses were related to some jurors.

"The [U.S.] government's reaction to Mr. Villagomez's motion is so predictable, i.e., when legitimately challenged by defendants, the government's strategy is to intimidate, intimidate, intimidate!" said Lujan.

In Villagomez's opposition to the prosecution's motion to compel disclosure, Lujan said the U.S. government obviously believes the best defense "is a good offense."

He cited that during the jury selection, the U.S. government had asked the court to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate a certain Glen Manglona and Dr. Hocog to find out how Manglona became aware that his name was on the jury panel list.

The court, however, refused to involve itself in the matter, Lujan said.

"This did not deter the government because its message of intimidation must be sent out loud and clear, i.e., nothing and no one will be tolerated to get in the way of the government's burning need to convict defendants herein, Mr. Manglona and Dr. Hocog were subpoenaed to appear before a U.S. grand jury on April 30, 2009," he said.

The U.S. government had asked the federal court to issue an order compelling the lawyers of Villagomez and co-defendants James and Joaquina Santos to disclose the identity of a persons who, according to the defense, revealed that some witnesses were related to some jurors.

Over-the-cap salaries of 12 doctors, other health personnel OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has certified the over-the-cap salaries of 10 medical doctors, one pharmacist, and one nurse practitioner at the Commonwealth Health Center between April 16 and May 8.

These medical professionals are allowed to receive anywhere between $57,000 and $123,750, based on certification letters sent by Fitial to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

Fitial certified and granted approval to allow Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hernandez, a pediatrician, to receive an annual salary of $123,750.

A $107,688.88 annual salary has been granted to both Dr. Robert Silk and Dr. Glen Richard.

Dr. Chad C. Lowe, a family medicine physician, was also certified and granted to receive an annual salary of $110,000.

A Tinian Health Center physician, Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne, was also certified to receive a yearly salary of $130,000.

The governor also certified the $180,000 annual salary of Dr. William Lytowski, an anesthesiologist.

Dr. Hazel Christine Brown, an emergency medicine physician at CHC, was certified a salary of $45 an hour.

Other doctors certified to receive over-the-cap salaries were Dr. Martin P. Rohringer, Dr. Arthur J. Loerzel, and Dr. John William Rodgers.

Fitial also certified the over-the-cap salary of two other healthcare professionals at CHC: Anthony Raho, a pharmacist, receives $90,000 a year, while Bertha-Jermay P. Camacho, a nurse practitioner, receives $57,000 a year.

The governor is also mandated to advise the Civil Service Commission of any move to grant over-the-cap salaries.

ALLOW

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will be phased out under Public Law 110-229," the HANMI board of directors said in a letter to U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife.

HANMI also reiterated its call for DHS to include China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, saying the lack of access to these tourist markets will result in some $185 million in annual direct loss to the CNMI, and not $6 million as DHS earlier reported.

Although HANMI was not asked to testify at the May 19 hearing in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of the federalization law, it submitted its comments to the subcommittee on May 15 as part of official record.

"The possible impacts of such a major transition with all of the additional costs it will bring to our struggling economy are of huge concern. We also fear for the human impacts of the uncertainty on our community and staff morale. We continue to urge the officials in charge of drafting the regulations to publish these as soon as possible and take CNMI public comments into consideration," HANMI told the subcommittee.

HANMI, which has over 30 member-hotels, reiterated that the CNMI hotel industry is a clean, law-abiding industry with little history of labor problems.

"We provide safe and pleasant work places to our staffs, which include approximately 64 percent foreign and 36 percent local workers," said HANMI.

It added that while hotels wish there were an adequate local workforce, foreign workers are and always have been a vital and valued part of their business.

"This is expected to change very little for the foreseeable future, especially given the declining local population and lack of formal job training for many professional available in the CNMI," the hotel group said.

Model program

HANMI said the CNMI government has done a good job with its Visitor Entry Permit program that has allowed the islands to carefully grow the China and Russian markets for more than a decade.

Rather than canceling the VEP completely, HANMI hopes that the CNMI could maintain and strengthen the disciplines it has already put in place locally, with federal help.

"The CNMI has an exit/entrance and tracking system which is worth considering as a model," said HANMI.

The hotel group cited Sen. Dianne Feinstein's concerns raised during a May 7, 2009, hearing regarding the lack of an exit tracking system on visa waiver countries that the U.S. now recognizes.

"In this case, we find that the CNMI's system should be considered as a potential model, in that it seems to be more advanced," HANMI added.

Questions

HANMI also listed over 20 frequently asked questions that were recently posed to a DHS policy team, most notable of which is, "When will the draft labor regulations be available for the public to comment on?"

This was followed by questions about green cards for certain categories: Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who never got a green card; IRs of U.S. permanent residents; IRs of CNMI or U.S. permanent residents who are members of the Armed Forces who cannot come back to the CNMI to assist with a green card hearing for their spouses; and widows/widowers and children of deceased sponsors in all of the above categories.

HANMI said it heard the filing fee will be approximately $1,500 for a green card which is beyond the means of many people to afford.

"Is there any possibility of a waiver of green card fees for the above categories? If so, would there be an income threshold? Many of these people are below the U.S. poverty level because of a lower minimum wage and based on the significant differences between the CNMI economy and that of the U.S. mainland," HANMI said.

The hotel group also asked for a detailed explanation of the procedure should an alien employee needs to leave the CNMI during the transition period for a business trip, a family emergency or vacation.

"Will their valid CNMI work permit [good for up to two years during the transition period] be honored for reentry? Are there periodic exit requirements (or limits on the number of years someone can qualify) for either CNMI-only transitional workers or federal worker visa holders? If so, what will happen to any U.S. citizen children of those individuals when they are required to exit?" HANMI asked.

INDEPENDENT

From Page 1

The board deferred action on the proposal.

Saipan Tribune learned that the executive director, comptroller, deputy comptroller, and the agency's attorney positions were recommended for revision to change their employment contracts from regular employee to independent contractor. The proposal's main objective is to save money for the agency.

At present, CPA pays for each individual's taxes, insurance, retirement contributions, and annual leaves on top of their annual salary.

For the executive director position, currently occupied by Efrain Camacho, the agency spends up to $110,000 yearly, inclusive of his $70,000 salary.

The agency estimates that it will pay David Blake, the newly hired comptroller, $90,000 annually.

For deputy comptroller, currently occupied by Frances Mafnas, CPA approved a $50,000 annual pay excluding other obligations and benefits.

The same situation applies with the agency's attorney, Joe Bermudes, who was approved $65,000 regular pay on top of his insurance, tax, and leave benefits.

Camacho confirmed yesterday that he presented the proposal to the board with the sole intention of saving the agency a substantial amount for its operation.

If the proposal is approved, CPA will generate a savings of over $100,000 each year, Camacho said, without jeopardizing the operation and function of the airports and seaports.

As an independent contractor, Camacho said he can serve as the agency's executive director while also working as its staff engineer.

"For my position alone, CPA can save a substantial amount," he said.

A staff engineer position is paid $65,000 while the executive director post gets $70,000. This is on top of the taxes, insurances, Retirement Fund contribution, etc., that are being paid by CPA for each individual in those two positions, which could reach over $200,000 every year.

Camacho said he's willing to work and serve in both positions as an independent contractor for a much lesser amount.

Camacho said the contract would be short-term—for a year or two—depending on the board and will include a provision that would allow termination by the board anytime it wants to.

"For me it's a win-win situation because we can continue contributing to SSS [for our retirement] while the board can put in a provision that we can't accept other jobs while the contract is in effect," he said.

25 SCHOOL

From Page 1

still serving in acting capacities.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of yesterday, the system only has 12 school administrators who are fully certified and have met all requirements set by the Board of Education.

Of these 12, eight are principals and four are vice principals.

Like teachers and counselors, a compensation plan for administrators is being enforced by the system where salary is based on the certification they have obtained and their years of their service.

To become fully certified, school administrators must have a degree or higher, pass Praxis tests, and must have completed all courses to get an administrator's certification, which *Saipan Tribune* learned consists of seven different "courses."

Most of these courses are offered in online universities while other sessions are being offered by PSS by bringing in experts from the United States.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the system will retain and assist these "acting" school administrators—for the moment—until they become compliant with standards.

Of the 25 administrators considered noncompliant, 12 are acting principals while 13 are acting vice principals.

Sablan said PSS has no vacancy announcements for school administrator positions at present.

"We're prioritizing the hiring of classroom teachers for the next school year. So, there are some schools where we designated acting principals or vice principals," she said.

Sablan is optimistic that all school administrators will be in compliance before the federal deadline.

"We're seeing their commitment to get all their certifications…and we're optimistic," she added.

It is the goal of PSS to have all its school administrators be considered highly qualified by this year. This means getting the needed certification requirements, passing rigorous tests, and obtaining a master's degree for principals or a bachelor's degree or higher for vice principals.

PSS has about 500 teachers for its nearly 11,000 students on three islands. For the opening of school year 2009-2010, it is targeting to hire some 50 new teachers. Their salaries will be funded in part by the stimulus money released by President Obama.

FINANCE

From Page 1

nance secretary when Bridge Capital submitted its proposal, said Saturday that no contract has been awarded yet.

He said that before he left Finance for his new post, he instructed the department to discuss the issue further with Bridge Capital.

If and when the government awards a contract to Bridge Capital, it will be the first time that video lottery games will be operating in the CNMI.

Inos had said Bridge Capital's proposal is still under review to make sure such activity is allowed under CNMI laws and regulations.

Weeks later, Finance proposed to amend its regulations to update rules on lottery operations, which include "elimination of language concerning lottery activities that are no longer applicable, and amending language to reflect new lottery games." Among other things, it proposes video lottery operations in the CNMI.

Finance's proposed amendment to its regulations is published in the latest Commonwealth Register dated May 20, 2009.

The public has 30 days from May 20 to comment on the proposed amendments.

Acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack did not return calls for comments.

The proposed regulations' provision on definitions adds the term "video lottery," to mean any lottery conducted on a video lottery machine or linked video lottery machines with an aggregate progression prize or prizes.

Bridge Capital LLC, which bought interest on the La Fiesta property in March 2007, owned the now defunct Guam Greyhound Park racetrack.

Since the former La Fiesta Mall shut its doors in 2004, the building has become a wasteland, yet it costs the government at least $200,000 in annual lease payment to Bridge Capital, a lending company.

Gov't review

Finance said all lottery operations are subject to inspection and review of operations, while all lottery licensees are subject to review of financial records by Finance and their representatives, and the Office of the Public Auditor.

"Failure of any licensee to immediately comply with requests for access to financial records shall be cause for immediate suspension of license," Finance said.

Finance's proposed amendments also include deleting entire sections on Scratch-it or Instant Games, On-line OZ Lotto game rules, On-line Power Ball rules, On-line Lotto rules, and On-line Keno rules.

It also deletes the term "Marianas Lottery" wherever it appears, and replaces it with the term "Marianas Super Lottery."

Finance said the authority to operate lottery games is specifically limited to the type of game identified in the lottery operator license and does not authorize the operation of any other game or activity, or provide any exclusive right to control the CNMI's ability to limit license activity or issue other licenses.

Anatahan emergency declaration is extended anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew the state of disaster emergency declaration for Anatahan Island, six years after the sudden major eruption of the island's volcano that led to the first declaration in 2003.

The 30-day emergency declaration says Anatahan remains unsafe for human habitation and continues to ban all travels to the island except for scientific expeditions. The previous declaration is set to expire on May 30, 2009.

Anatahan volcano, located 75 miles north of Saipan, suddenly erupted on the evening of May 10, 2003. It spewed out clouds of ashes that reached Philippine jurisdiction. No one was directly threatened by the initial strong explosive activity, because residents had long before evacuated the small volcanic island.

Then Gov. Juan N. Babauta issued the first emergency declaration on May 13, 2003, and the declaration has always been extended every month since then.

The U.S. Geological Survey, in its latest status report on Anatahan dated May 22, 2009 said no reports of eruptive activity on Anatahan were received the past week.

"Seismic levels have remained low over the past week. Nothing unusual was observed in satellite images," USGS said.

During times of northerly winds, Anatahan plume, if present, could be directed towards the CNMI and Guam. If this happens, residents may notice hazy air conditions and smell sulfur, said USGS.

The CNMI Emergency Management Office will issue volcanic haze and sulfur advisories if appropriate, it added.

DPW readies paving of two Kagman roads

The Department of Public Works is expected to soon start the paving of two roads in Kagman using $387,000 out of $1.8 million road projects funding from the Office of Insular Affairs.

DPW Secretary Diego B. Songsong said yesterday the department anticipates completion of the design for the Chacha Road and Kamuti Road by June 10, 2009.

Songsong informed the Kagman Komunidat Association that DPW will then be required to submit a request for an "authorization to proceed" from OIA for the construction.

The Secretary explained that in August 2007, Capital Improvement Projects administrator Vicky Villagomez requested for a funding authorization from OIA for seven road projects specifically for Precinct IV roads.

Of the seven roads, only Chaha Road and Kamuti Road are located in Kagman.

Therefore, Songsong said, given the appropriate linear feet allocation of these two roads and the current precinct classification, Kagman is eligible for only 25 percent of the total available funding.

He said DPW contracted an engineering firm to conduct engineering, surveying, and permitting services for $250,000.

Songsong said the $250,000 is deducted from the $1.8 million, leaving $1.55 million available for construction.

"Since Kagman is only eligible for 25 percent of the total apportionment, the actual dollar amount available for construction is $387,000," he said.

Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres said that, on behalf of the Kagman people, he would like to thank DPW for helping them with their basic needs for better roads.

"The paving of the roads have many benefits such as cleaner air, less dust, less car repairs, and higher property value. Kamuti and Chaha Roads will be paved once and for all," Torres said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Power outage next week in Oleai

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage on June 6, 2009, affecting the Oleai Village.

The outage—from 8:30am through 12:30pm—will allow Power Distribution line crews to clear the vegetation that is contacting primary lines in the Oleai Village.

It will be necessary to first de-energize the entire Kiya 4 circuit for about 30 minutes so the line crew may isolate the designated project area. This is essential to provide a safe working area for the crews and the four-hour outage will only affect the designated area.

The four-hour outage will affect the following areas: Oleai St., Tammwoora Ave., Ellegh Ave., Texas Rd. to the Oleai Elementary School including Falasow Pl. and Patio Pl. and other customers within the area.

CUC requests the cooperation and patience of people driving and residing in these areas while work is being performed. CUC personnel will work to minimize the any inconvenience to consumers.

For more information, contact Power Division's Gary Camacho at 235-7025 Ext.164. ***(CUC)***

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Third suspect in counterfeit money pleads guilty

Lucas T. Manglona, one of three persons accused of passing fake bills to some stores on Saipan, has pleaded guilty to charges.

Manglona and his lawyer, Robert T. Torres, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. On Tuesday afternoon, the defendant pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of passing counterfeit obligations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson found Manglona fully competent to enter the guilty plea.

Munson set the sentencing for Sept. 1, 2009 at 9:30am. He remanded the defendant back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

On Jan. 12, 2009, Manglona made a purchase at the Nang Ocha Store with a $50 bill he knew to be counterfeit, based on an agreement or understanding he had with co-defendant Nestor Taitano.

The understanding was that Taitano would give Manglona the fake $50 bill. Manglona would use the fake money to buy anything and he gets to keep the item he purchased, in exchange for returning any change to Taitano.

Munson recently canceled the hearing that was intended to determine whether Manglona is competent or not to stand trial.

Dr. Ron Meister, a psychiatrist, concluded in a written report of his evaluation that Manglona presently lacks the capacity to aid his lawyer in preparing for his defense due to his not having been given his prescribed medication just before being evaluated.

The court, however, determined that it is likely that Manglona's competency will be restored within the next few days. The court ordered that the defendant be re-evaluated by Dr. Meister on May 4, 2009, to determine whether he is competent to stand trial.

Manglona is also being charged with one count of counterfeiting in the local court. The case is set for jury trial on June 8, 2009.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, and local police busted Manglona, Taitano, and Kisha Lyn Masga King.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto stated in the indictment that the three used fake money on Jan. 12, 2009 to defraud at least four establishments—Koblerville Shell gas station, Tapo Fashion in Chalan Piao, Fashion Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, and Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente.

Taitano and King had already entered a guilty plea in federal court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Masilungan, Cervera top GCA elementary graduates

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camille Joy Masilungan and Ezra Maze Cervera were named outstanding students of Grace Christian Academy, topping this year's batch of elementary graduates during a recognition ceremony Wednesday night.

Masilungan was named class valedictorian and was a recipient of two other special recognitions—the GCA Eagle Award and the highest GPA per grade honor.

Masilungan is the eldest daughter of Malou and Mar Masilungan.

Her parents described their daughter as hardworking and studious.

CAMILLE JOY MASILUNGAN
Valedictorian

"We're very proud of what she achieved and we're hoping she will continue to strive for the best in her education," the proud mother told *Saipan Tribune*.

"She wants to become a doctor… or a lawyer. Whatever decision she may have in the future, we're here to support her all the way," Malou Masilungan added.

Ezra Maze Cervera, 10, was named this year's salutatorian and was also adjudged GCA's Eagle Award nominee. She is the eldest daughter of Rowena and Jevren Cervera.

"She deserves this recognition…and we're very happy for our daughter," the proud mother said.

Neil Aaron Conti earned first honorable mention honors was while Angela Felici Cruz and Allexa Murielle Go were awarded the second and third honorable mentions respectively.

There were a total of 29 fifth graders who were promoted in Thursday night's ceremony.

Gold medal awards were also bestowed on six students who obtained the highest GPA per grade level: Tori Jade Camacho for Kindergarten; Arvin Dayao, first grade; Claudilyn Lacbayo, second grade; Peter Luis Camacho, third grade; Kenichi Luke Shirata, fourth grade; and Camille Joy Masilungan, fifth grade.

The highest GPA per level award for the K-5th division went to third grader Peter Luis Camacho.

In her message, principal Faith Dela Rosa encouraged the new graduates to continue to seek learning.

"Your learning does not end tonight. Tonight is just a beginning of another chapter in your life. Keep learning and seeking for answers," she told the graduates.

GCA also celebrated the achievements of 16 students who were promoted to first grade.

During Tuesday's ceremony, Tori Jade Camacho was named valedictorian and Heather Angel Pangelinan the class salutatorian.

Named honorable mentions were Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, first; Megumi Fukushima, second; and Natsuki Hirata, third honorable mention.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1999 reunion meeting today

The Marianas High School Class of 1999 will be having a reunion meeting today, May 29, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The meeting will discuss a planned fundraising hot lunch. For more information, contact class president Francis Mendiola at 287-6700 or e-mail iskovalski@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Dandan school to host fundraiser tomorrow

Dandan Elemetary School will be celebrating its 10th anniversary and will be holding a Cultural Day King and Queen fundraiser tomorrow, May 30, 2009, from 8am to 2pm, at the school's campus. There will be several activities, government agency educational program displays, food vendors, mini car show, fun, games, and performance, to name a few. Come one-come all! Bring your family and friends and help support Dandan Elementary School. ***(PR)***

Beautify CNMI meeting set

The first Beautify CNMI monthly meeting in about a year is scheduled for next Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 3:30pm. This will be a reorganization meeting. ***(PR)***

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access to pool ~ access to PC2 fitness center (cardio & pilates)
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 29, 2000

CUC selects Enron

The controversy swirling around the procurement of a new power plant on Saipan is not likely to simmer down soon despite handing out the multi-million dollar contract to Texas-based industrial conglomerate Enron. For the second time, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation made an actual award to a bidder, which came nearly two years after it chose Japan's Marubeni Corp. and its U.S. partner Sithe Energies, Inc. in June 1998 following a highly-questionable selection process. Enron emerged runner-up to Marubeni-Sithe in that evaluation conducted by CUC's in-house evaluators which it strongly opposed, prompting the power company to lead the protests against the government-owned utility corporation over its handling of the project. Last Friday, the CUC board rewarded Enron through the "conditional" grant of the estimated $120 million contract by a split vote of 3-2 in an effort to meet the deadline set out by a recently enacted law and to start the negotiation process.

Board sought to regulate private schools

The State Board of Education is looking to address the absence of a regulatory body which should oversee the entry of private schools into the CNMI education system. BOE chair Frances H. Diaz has underscored the need for the creation of a regulatory board which would exercise control over schools chartered out of the Public School System. "Everybody just comes in and opens a new school by getting a business license," the board chair pointed out. Diaz expressed concern over the lack of an authorized body to look at the curriculum of these schools.

May 29, 2001

Exporters paying tax twice

The Division of Revenue and Taxation has been imposing distorted tax requirements on Northern Marianas-based businesses transporting out-bound goods, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. Specifically, Mr. Babauta said the revenue and taxation division requires on-island investors to pay both the Business Gross Revenue Tax and the Custom Certification User Fee for locally-produced for-export goods. Mr. Babauta made the revelation after recent discovery that the Division has implemented policies to allegedly misconstrue the amount of taxes imposed upon goods produced in the CNMI solely for export.

New student loan program sought

A lawmaker has proposed for the cancellation of at least six existing financial aid programs to be replaced by one comprehensive student loan program, citing depleting government resources. House Committee on Education Chair Brigida Ichihara has authored an initiative dubbed as the Guaranteed Student Loan Act of 2000 which seeks to repeal current laws or regulations that has established postsecondary financial assistance for students funded by public funds. The act aims to institute a new comprehensive and exclusive mechanism for the disbursement, administration and awarding of guaranteed student loans.

May 29, 2002

Ferry services may resume Friday

Ferry services between Saipan and Tinian may resume on Friday as negotiations in Hong Kong between the Tinian Shipping and Transportation, Inc. and its creditor move forward. This was learned from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Hotel General Manager Tom Liu, quoting updates on the negotiations between Tinian Shipping and Hong Kong-based World Fame Shipping. Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Chair Michael Kwan, together with the company's legal counsel, is now in Hong Kong where negotiations are ongoing.

US grants eyed to help Tinian ferry

As part of long-term solutions for the financial problems besetting the Tinian Shipping and Transport, the CNMI government is now exploring ways for the ailing firm to receive federal grants to subsidize its operations. Senate President Paul A. Manglona disclosed this, soon after a meeting yesterday with Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who has expressed concern over the matter. Manglona said that news about the resumption of the Tinian ferry operations by Friday is good but it is imperative that long term solutions be explored to prevent any future disruption in the ferry service between Saipan and Tinian.

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EDITORIAL

Kudos, and some questions, for Sotomayor

There is much to admire in the achievements of Sonia Sotomayor, the New York judge tapped by President Obama to fill a Supreme Court vacancy created by the impending retirement of Justice David Souter.

Born to immigrant Puerto Rican parents and raised in a housing project in the Bronx, Sotomayor went on to excel at Princeton and earn a law degree from Yale. She worked as a prosecutor and represented corporate interests in private practice before being named to the federal trial court in New York by President George H.W. Bush; she was later elevated to a slot on the New York-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit by President Bill Clinton. As a Hispanic woman with such a diversity of legal experience, she would bring a welcome fresh perspective to the bench.

Sotomayor has spoken about how gender, ethnicity and race influence a judge's views, and that should be one subject for her confirmation hearings. In a 2001 speech, she said: "The aspiration to impartiality is just that—it's an aspiration because it denies the fact that we are by our experiences making different choices than others. ... Justice (Sandra Day) O'Connor has often been cited as saying that a wise old man and wise old woman will reach the same conclusion in deciding cases . ... I am not so sure that I agree with the statement. First... there can never be a universal definition of wise. Second, I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life."

Senators could ask her, then, how, when deciding a case, she balances the quest for objectivity with her personal experiences. They might also ask her views on judicial activism. In a panel discussion in 2005, she said that a "court of appeals is where policy is made." Conservative critics have seized on this statement to argue that she is a judicial activist who believes judges should make, rather than interpret, the law. Yet her statement could just as easily be understood to be explaining correctly that the courts of appeals—and not the Supreme Court—are the venues where the vast majority of cases and policies are ultimately decided.

We hope Sotomayor also will discuss her thinking in the case of Ricci v. DeStefano, in which a group of white firefighters sued the city of New Haven for failing to certify promotion tests because no African Americans had scored high enough to qualify for advancement. A trial court ruled against the white firefighters, and on appeal, Sotomayor and two colleagues essentially rubber-stamped the lower court decision without elaboration, even though the case presented important and undecided questions of law. That case is now awaiting a decision by the Supreme Court justices whom Sotomayor soon hopes to join as a colleague.

Senators are right to closely scrutinize Sotomayor's philosophy and qualifications. She has produced a rich record of opinions as an appeals court judge for the Judiciary Committee to discuss. Senators also should remember that Obama, like any president, is entitled to deference in choosing a justice.

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Hard times and crime? Just you wait

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation. E-mail him at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.

The economy is a wreck, and crime is down. Does that mean hard times and lawbreaking aren't linked?

Two weeks ago, Los Angeles crime statistics came out for the misery-filled first 4 1/2 months of 2009, and they were, to me, a weird ray of sunshine.

Nationally, crime has been up in some places and down in others. But overall? Dramatically down. In Los Angeles, the drop is particularly stunning. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, compared with the same period in 2008, homicide is down by 32 percent; rape 12 percent; robbery 3 percent; burglary 6 percent, and grand theft auto 18 percent.

What gives?

As it turns out, it's not all that easy to figure out why crime goes up and down. There are a lot of factors and even more theories. Chief William Bratton probably would say it's all about his police force and his style of policing, and he gets a fair amount of credit for a job well done.

"Smart, effective policing seems to be keeping a lid (on crime)," said George Tita, a professor in the University of California, Irvine's criminology, law and society department, in a Los Angeles Times report in April. But that isn't the whole story, and it doesn't mean that unemployment, home foreclosures, financially battered school systems and public services don't and won't have an effect on wrongdoing.

I called Mark A.R. Kleiman, who teaches public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles. He started by telling me that "crime rates are not actually linked to economic cycles."

He pointed out that the 1950s were a time of slow economic growth and low crime rates, while the booming late-1960s saw a boom in criminal activity. He noted that no Great Crime Wave emerged to match the Great Depression. I then asked him why most people seem to think that economics and crime are related. He said that it's logical and even to some degree true, but it's all in the way you define "link." Ripple effect might be a better image.

As Los Angeles' most recent crime data suggest, high unemployment doesn't necessarily translate directly into high crime rates. But that's because the specific economic pinch in itself is not the immediate cause of criminal activity. What does seem to translate into crime is long-term economic trouble. One theory holds that the motivation toward criminal acts increases with prolonged social strain. Strain is the pressure people feel between their goals and their means to achieve them. One consequence of unrelieved strain is that the desire to achieve one's goals leads some to use illegitimate means to get where they want to go.

High unemployment doesn't necessarily translate directly into high crime rates. But that's because the specific economic pinch in itself is not the immediate cause of criminal activity. What does seem to translate into crime is long-term economic trouble.

"Long-term material conditions are important," UC Irvine criminologist Elliott Currie told me. "They can affect values and the belief in what kinds of conduct are acceptable or not. If you put people in really lousy conditions, they'll begin to think differently about school, drugs or gangs."

Another way to think about all this is to fit it into the basic left/right analysis of crime and social dysfunction. Liberals contend that society's negative or unfair structures are the main impediments to individuals' success. Conservatives tend to blame bad personal behavior for bad outcomes. In the battle between what might be called structuralism and behavioralism, the truth is that if you step far enough back, the whole thing is a big feedback loop.

Economic and social conditions affect how people see their futures and how they choose to see and interact with the world around them. In other words, left and right are both correct, if we wait long enough. Just as behavior and culture create conditions, conditions shape culture and behavior.

That means that, even after the recession ends, the bad economic statistics that have described the past year still could turn into bad crime statistics. It's especially likely if, as some economists fear, the recovery fails to recoup hundreds of thousands of jobs that have been lost in such industries as car manufacturing and financial services.

That will mean the discrepancy between what many of us want and what we can get will deepen, social strain will increase and maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but someday, the other shoe will drop.

In the meantime, count your crime statistics blessings, but don't fool yourself: Crime and hard times do go hand in hand.

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Wage stuff and bigger issues, too

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

As you no doubt know, the CNMI's minimum wage bumped up another notch this month, to $4.55 an hour.

Anyway, if we keep our eye on the ball, we'll notice that in six years, the wage will presumably be set at $7.25 an hour.

So, what will it cost to have a full time employee in six years? I'm asked to come up with one number to characterize this thing, and I come up with about $19,000 a year at a minimum. Of course, that's in future dollars, not today's dollars, but nobody wants to hear these footnotes when they're fishing for a simple, one-line answer.

So that's a bare bones, as-simple- as-it-gets cost figure. It's based on taking $7.25 an hour, multiplying it by the standard 2,080 hours, adding a 20 percent burden to everything (to cover payroll taxes, administrative costs, and so on), and adding a very conservative $1,000 a year for training costs and such.

This approach isn't some flight of fancy. It's based on my hands-on experience with budgeting for the private sector. A 20-percent burden is at the light end of things, and that can easily soar if an employer is tasked with providing insurance, pensions, holidays, sick days, child care, and so on.

Hey, that's a very pregnant "if." Given that it's likely that U.S. employers will face mandates to provide some or all of these things before too long, I wouldn't ever advise anyone to budget for staff based on a skinny 20-percent burden. Beyond that, well, my more refined estimates are tendered on a case-by-case basis.

While Saipan is digesting the minimum wage issue, the mainland side of things is due for another spell in the limelight which, in turn, will determine Saipan's situation as well. Which is to say, I think the U.S. minimum wage might rise substantially in the next few years.

In summary, that eventual "$19K" (minimum) cost of having an employee on Saipan might go up, or even go way up, but it isn't going to go down. Doing a mere budget for this isn't enough; a savvy analyst will do a real forecast and a sensitivity analysis. As always, the real risk is implicit. As usual, the bean-counters will miss it.

■■■

I want to let this wage issue shift into a broader gig, for two reasons. First of all, the minimum wage subject bores me; any freshman economics student aces that gig on the first try, it's just a price-control problem. But, secondly, it at least leads to a more profound topic that is going to body-slam those who aren't ready for it. So here we go: One of the things we're going to see in the coming years is a profound shift in the world's labor markets. The declining economies are going to face crisis after crisis: Pension schemes will be going broke, bankruptcies will mount, jobs will flee for more productive places, clean and orderly neighborhoods will become nasty and grim, and middle-class people who considered comfortable desk jobs a birthright are going to be angry and scared when they can't find work.

That last note is no mere social quip. When you push anger and fear into the mass psyche, the output is envy and malice.

A free market can survive all manner of human frailty. It can survive stupidity. It can survive envy. It can even survive greed. But it cannot survive malice. When people are more interested in undermining their neighbor than advancing themselves, there can be no free market; the very premise of the market is erased. Much of the poor world lives in this grim condition, but what is interesting is that much of the advanced world is joining it. This fact, more than any other, is going to write the history of the next few decades. Hostility (the term used by the late economist Joseph Schumpeter) is a force to be understood, dear reader. The first half of the last century provides a few insights into those situations, and Saipan's war relics stand in grim testimony. The first half of this century might have some very destructive parallels.

The CNMI is entering extremely exciting times. I'm not the only one who thinks so, and over the past week I have been asked by readers to cover two topics: (1) the prospect of a large war in this area, and (2) the situation that Filipino workers face in the coming economic times. I will cover both of these topics right here. Stay tuned.

Broken warrior

By CATHERINE WHITNEY
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Whitney is the author of Soldiers Once: My Brother and the Lost Dreams of America's Veterans. *Web site: soldiersoncebook.com.*

My brother, Jim, was a soldier once, but when he died, at age 53, he was long past the time when anyone called him a hero. He died alone, in poverty, alienated from family and friends, his life and death complicated by war wounds that penetrated far deeper than the pieces of shrapnel that won him his Purple Heart. Jim was a Vietnam combat engineer who survived the war but later became another kind of statistic—a lost soul, a veteran who never recovered from his experiences.

Jim didn't seek help, nor did the Army offer it during his 20-year military career. Instead, to try to deal with his pain, he began to drink. He was forced into retirement when he was 37, with nothing but a drawer full of medals, a subsistence-level pension and a crushed spirit.

We hear a lot of talk about post-traumatic stress disorder afflicting troops and veterans. To its credit, the military has tried to update its attitudes and systems to accommodate the growing number of traumatized soldiers returning from our current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. But PTSD is still viewed as an abnormal response to battlefield trauma rather than the reaction of a normal person to the horrors of war. And so the stigma remains.

Tragically, it is often left to individual soldiers and veterans to seek help. Many are career military, as my brother was, and they fear the dishonor associated with a diagnosis of PTSD.

And when veterans do file a claim, the process is so convoluted, humiliating and intimidating that it creates fresh emotional wounds. The Department of Veterans Affairs places claimants in the position of having to relive the trauma, analyze its impact and recall names, dates and places that may be months or years in the past. The lengthy filing form includes a detailed essay on the exact event that caused PTSD.

But PTSD is not like a shrapnel wound that pierces the skin at a precise moment. It may develop over time and not be evident for years or even decades after the fact. There are so many roadblocks on the way to a successful PTSD claim that some veterans just give up. Some die before their claims have made it through the process. Some commit suicide.

Imagine how different this bleak picture might look if professional mental health screening were required for all troops, both before and after combat—along with an adequate force of trained psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers to meet the demand. It's an obvious first step, but it would require an organizational and financial commitment from Congress, the VA and the current administration. Unfortunately, for most people, PTSD is an abstraction. The lonely battle of lobbying for better services is mostly left to independent veterans groups and families of the afflicted.

There is a significant disconnect between what we say about supporting our troops and what we actually do. We seem to despise the weakness of the wounded soldier, especially when it is manifested by mental illness, social alienation or undefined degenerative diseases. Today's war heroes too often become tomorrow's poor, many living in rundown apartment complexes around military bases, where they can squeeze out discounts for their essential needs.

We buried Jim on Sept. 10, 2001, and barely had a chance to grieve when thoughts of our brother were blown from our minds. A new war was engaged, with an army of fresh names and faces. The familiar chant spilled out from the soul of a nation blind to its meaning: Support our troops. Now, as so many of our brave soldiers make their long journey home, the question remains: Can we give dignity in peace?

Letters to the Editor

The forgotten fallen

On May 25, 2009, the United States marked Memorial Dayto remember and honor those men and women who perished in every war or military action. One of those men was my brother, the late Corporal Joe Jr. Gogue Charfauros.

Every year, a small ceremony would be held in honor of these soldiers. This happens down at the newly named Corporal Joe Jr. G. Charfaurus Veteran's Memorial Park in Sonton Area, next to Sunset Villa. Last year the event was recognized with all dignitaries, JROTC cadets, DPS, some government employees, and a couple of families that have loved ones serving in different branches of the armed forces. It was also important last year because it marked the first death anniversary of my brother, who is the first soldier from the tiny island of Rota to ever get killed in action in Iraq.

Last Memorial Day morning, we made it a point to go down and attend the ceremony in honor of my brother as well as the other soldiers who have died serving our country. To our dismay, there was no ceremony, no dignitaries, cadets, no government employees, no other family members who have loved ones serving in the military! The only individuals present were Mr. Ike Mendiola, his guest, my uncle, Mr. Nobert Mundo (retired Army), and some pastor whom I didn't know, and Mr. Alfred M. Apatang (vice-chairman of RMC) who was passing by and decided to join us.

This pastor called our family and they all gathered in front of the memorial and he said some prayers. I didn't get down from my truck because I couldn't believe that a very important holiday wasn't recognized this year. My brother, Corporal Joe Jr. G. Charfaurus, deserves to be honored. I'm disappointed and curious as to who is in charge of this once a year memorial service. It's sad to say this but we have a Veteran's Association here on Rota and so many military retirees, yet the only one who showed up was Mr. Mundo.

Not only did Mr. Mundo show up, but he provide the American flag for that day, since there wasn't any flown at half-staff to honor the heroes. I wonder if this has to do with the fact that some veterans are not too happy with the renaming of the Veteran's Memorial Park. If that's the case, then you go and tell those three beautiful fatherless children that their father doesn't deserve that honor. I apologize in advance if I offend anyone with this matter. I want to thank those few individuals who were present at the memorial park. It's just hard to understand things like this, and I pray no other family should ever go through this ordeal, losing a loved one violently with no explanations at all.

To all men and women who served, died, and are presently serving in the armed forces, we salute you and may God bless you all. My brother may be forgotten this year but for us the family he will always be honored and never forgotten.

Joel G. Charfaurus
Sinapalo 2, Rota

Great fight

It was a great privilege to see my old friend, Kelvin Fitial, proudly representing the CNMI in China the other night. At the last minute, a group of us decided to go to see the 12th Art of War Fighting Championships, the latest edition of Beijing's regular mixed martial arts fights. I was pleasantly surprised to see Kelvin's picture in the program.

Fitial fought an incredible fight, hurting Koji Kanechika with heavy hands and big elbows in the preliminary, 10-minute round. He came out strong in the beginning of the second and final round, throwing roundhouses and uppercuts that staggered Kanechika. Uncharacteristically, the crowd was on their feet as Kelvin pummeled Kanechika with shot after shot.

Unfortunately, the unreasonably long first round took a lot off of the punches and Kelvin ran out of gas before he could knock Kanechika out. Winded, Fitial couldn't resist the armbar that the Japanese fighter executed after taking him to the ground and he was forced to tap-out in the last round.

Regardless of the outcome of the fight, Kelvin Fitial was an outstanding representative of the Commonwealth and a premier fighter. On a card that included Rolles Gracie, from the royal family of Brazilian Jin Jitsu, Fitial's fight was definitely the highlight of the evening. Congratulations, Kelvin. I hope to see you again soon, this time with your hand raised in victory.

Matt Wertz
Beijing, China

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

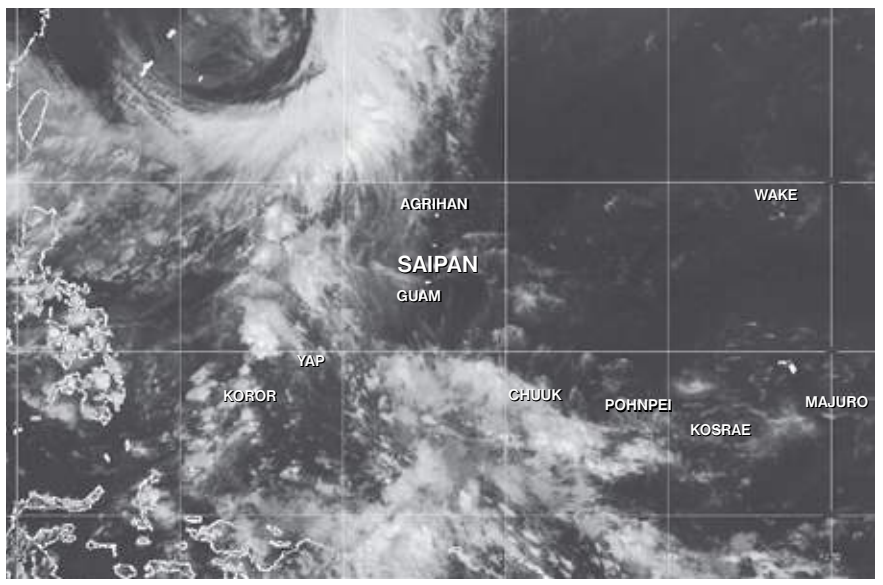
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼62
Hong Kong	Rain	▲81	▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼71
London	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼71
New York	Thundershowers	▲76	▼60
Osaka	Showers	▲75	▼66
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲70	▼57
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼54
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼58
Tokyo	Rain	▲72	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲82	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts through the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N139E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles east of this boundary. A weak surface trough north of Yap runs southwestward from 14N138E to 11N132E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the trough axis. Another weak surface trough west of Koror extends southeastward from 8N131E to 5N132E to 2N133E. Scattered light showers are found 100 miles west of the trough between 2N and 5N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of 2N between 134E and 145E. A surface trough embedded in trade-wind flow stretches from EQ147E to 7N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of 5N between 145E and 155E and up to 200 miles northeast of a line from 7N143E to 5N153E. This area includes Chuuk.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:15 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:10 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:45 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:21 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:20 AM	
Sunday	12:15 PM	12:06 AM
Monday	1:09 PM	12:46 AM
Tuesday	2:00 PM	1:24 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

MEET THE CANDIDATES RALLY

JUAN PAN TENORIO GUERRERO & JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO

Sunday, May 31, 2009 • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm • Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan

Live Entertainment

JOE McCARREL, TEKA NAHA NUI, INATUAS
and more... Featuring DJ Davey G.

Kids Activities

Food Drinks

RAFFLE
Must be present to win!

For more details call 483-1728 or visit www.juanpan.jncamacho.com

EXPERIENCE • HARD WORK • SOLUTIONS

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Juan Pan T. Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho

Island Snapshots

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings go out to Jasmin May Cordova, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 29. "Thank you for being such a wonderful person, stay as sweet as you are! Have a wonderful birthday! We love you, friend." From your good friends at Toothworks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Fidel Anton Inos Manglona. May God bless you on this very special day. We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Papa, Grandma, John-Boy, and Oryn Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHANGE OF COMMAND

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new Manta Ray Battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Ruby Anne Reyes, left, poses with Saipan Southern High School principal Peter James Le'au, vice principal Craig Garrison, and outgoing commander cadet Lt. Col. Kathlene Fay Pagara. The Saipan Southern High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps celebrated their change of command on May 28, 2009.

The new Manta Ray Battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Ruby Anne Reyes, poses with Saipan Southern High School principal Peter James Le'au together with her family and friends. Congratulations to Reyes and good luck on the upcoming year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The entire Saipan Southern High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps celebrated their change of command, posing at the Manta Monument after witnessing the event. Pagara gave her final inspirational words at the monument and handed her responsibilities to Reyes.

STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial talks with Bishop Tomas Camacho after delivering his State of the Commonwealth Address.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senators Paterno Hocog and Luis Crisostimo listen to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as he delivers his State of the Commonwealth Address on Wednesday at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House legal counsel Joseph LG. Taijeron Jr. performs master of ceremony duties during Wednesday State of the Commonwealth Address.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The crowd at the lobby listen to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as he delivers his State of the Commonwealth Address on Wednesday at the House of Representatives chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shakes hands and hugged Rep. Tina Sablan as he was about to return to his seat at the end of his State of the Commonwealth Address. The two recently had a spat over Fitial's defense of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez who was convicted by a federal jury on corruption charges in April.

Alcohol license renewals open

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Commerce at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill Road, Pohnpei Street, or from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division anytime between 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except weekends and legal holidays.

Licensed businesses on Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the resident department head at the Commerce Department on Rota and Tinian.

Application forms may also be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30, 2009.

All licensees whose renewal fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 2009 will be automatically suspended. Licenses that remain suspended as of July 31, 2009, due to unpaid renewal fees will be automatically revoked and the Commerce secretary shall not issue a renewal license. If a license still remains revoked as of July 31, 2009, a new application must be submitted.

For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. ***(PR)***

Deadline extended for new organics initiative

HONOLULU—Organic farmers interested in applying for federal funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program are urged to submit applications to their local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center by June 15, 2009.

The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under general EQIP.

ON THE NET

www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/contact
www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/

"Due to overwhelming interest, the deadline for the EQIP Organic special signup has been extended," said Lawrence T. Yamamoto, director for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Pacific Islands Area. "This initiative to assist organic producers is another way we hope to help our communities meet its locally produced food needs and conserve the islands natural resources."

Under the Organic Initiative required minimum core conservation practices will be determined by specific resource concerns. The practices are: conservation crop rotation; cover crop; nutrient management; pest management; prescribed grazing; and forage harvest management. States must consider using any appropriate practice that meets the resource concern on a particular operation.

Applications received from organic producers or producers in transition to organic farming will be accepted under this initiative from now until June 15, 2009.

The 2009 Organic Initiative will be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Interested producers should visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/contact to find the nearest USDA Service Center to determine eligibility. Additional information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/. ***(PR)***

3rd dog show set June 13

The third annual dog show has been set for June 13 at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Field.

This year's event is dubbed "PAWS Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Boonies," according to organizers PAWS and Beautify CNMI.

There will be six categories: the fattest, booniest, most disobedient, most talented, best Star Wars character and best in show.

The event is now open for registration.

Organizers said there will no entry fee for the contest but only a donation of $5 to $10.

Entry forms are available online at ttp://paws-saipan.org/entryform.pdf. You may send the filled-up form to Katie Busenkell at busenkell@gmail.com.

The sponsors that were initially listed by organizers include Costco, Pacific Trading Co., Pacific Islands Club, and Beautify CNMI.

Bobbi Grizzard said any animals that have mange or other communicable diseases will not be accepted to compete.

"Instead, we encourage you to take the animal to one of the island's veterinarians for treatment," she said.

Organizers welcome any financial donation to PAWS for the show and volunteers to help during the event.

PAWS CNMI is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the health, care, welfare and population control of cats and dogs in the CNMI. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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2X4X14 - $3.90	2X4X14 - $3.90
2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $10.90

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R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	~~10,799~~	8,999
U09-037T	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	47397	WHITE	ACA-860	8,499	
R09-003B	2007	CAMRY HYBRID	AUTO	16978	SILVER	ABZ-299	25,299	
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
N/A	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	27774	WHITE	ACC-214	10,999	
N/A	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	25065	WHITE	ACC-244	10,999	
N/A	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	13378	WHITE	ADS-061	10,999	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	46775	WHITE	ACE-236	11,899	
GM CARS								
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
N/A	2006	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	42356	WHITE	BUS-1193	12,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

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ON THE STREET

May is Tourism Month. What do you feel is the most attractive feature of the Northern Marianas?

–Joaquin M. Camacho
For me, it's hospitality. The way we greet the tourists, the way we treat them. If there's a special occasion, we call the tourists to show how we live and our traditions.

–Allen Mijares
The simplicity of life we have here…not too much pressure, not being too influenced by the Western world. The community still maintains its culture.

–George Fitial
The beach and our culture. Our beaches are beautiful. As for our culture, we're losing it, but some people are keeping it alive; it's good for visitors to be able to learn about it.

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US Mint to launch Guam quarter on June 4

New quarter features ancient symbols of Chamorro people

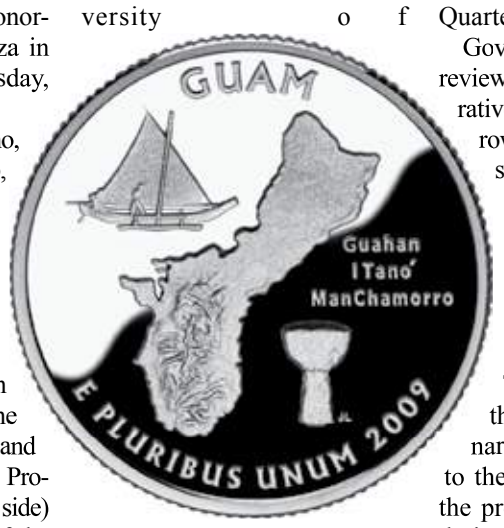
The public is being invited to join U.S. Mint Director Ed Moy at the launch of the commemorative quarter-dollar coin honoring Guam at Skinner Plaza in Hagåtña, Guam, on Thursday, June 4, at 9am.

Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, first lady Joann Camacho, and invited guests will join in the ceremony that includes local entertainment and a coin exchange.

The Guam commemorative quarter-dollar—released into circulation on May 26—is the third in the 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program. The reverse (tails side) design depicts the outline of the island, a flying proa (a seagoing craft built by the Chamorro people) and a latte stone (an architectural element used as the base of homes). Inscriptions on the reverse include the words GUAM and Guahan I Tanó ManChamorro, which means "Guam— Land of the Chamorro."

After the ceremony, the public may exchange their currency for $10 rolls of shiny, new Guam quarters. Children 18 years old and younger will receive a free quarter.

On the eve of the launch ceremony, Moy will host a Coin Collector's Forum at the University of Guam, Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building, on Wednesday, June 3, at 12pm, an opportunity for the public to express their ideas and ask questions on the nation's coinage.



The Guam quarter is the third in the 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program.

Gov. Camacho solicited and reviewed reverse design narratives from the public, narrowing hundreds of submissions down to two—the outline of the Island of Guam with a flying proa and latte stone and a flying proa at sail, a coconut tree bending toward the water and Two Lovers Point in the background. These narratives were forwarded to the United States Mint for the production of artistic renderings, which were then proposed to the territory. Through a public vote, the island, flying proa and latte stone design was recommended for the Guam quarter, and the Secretary of the Treasury approved it on July 31, 2008. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET

■ Guam quarter image: http://www.usmint.gov/pressroom/index.cfm?action=Photo#2009DCTerri
United States Mint: http://www.usmint.gov
■ Guam Quarter Information: http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/DCAndTerritories/index.cfm?action=dcterritories&local=GU
■ 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program: http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/DCAndTerritories/

Calvary Christian Academy promotes 18 to first grade

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Calvary Christian Academy has promoted its 18 Kindergarteners to first grade during a recognition ceremony last week.

The children wowed the crowd in the school's jam-packed auditorium as they demonstrated their readiness for the next level of their education.

With the guidance of teacher Elizabeth Workman, the kids performed presentations showing what they have learned in class in the following areas: Bible, readiness skills, phonics and reading, and numbers.

In his message, CCA principal Scott Norman commended the decision of parents and guardians in sending their kids to CCA.

He assured them that all 18 kids are already reading at their grade level and can successfully solve mathematical problems.

"We are bound to do our best for your kids…and we're very serious in this commitment. Rest assured that CCA will continue to give you the best product," he told the crowd.

Outstanding Kindergarten graduates included Erin Park and Yenee Rhyoo, who were named recipients of the perfect attendance awards; Frederic Guintu and Bhea Mae Epan, Bible awardees; Jaime Navarro, most improved Bible awardee; Frederic Guintu, Phonics; Yenee Rhyoo, most improved phonics; Frederic Guintu, Bhea Mae Epan, reading; Jaime Navarro, most improved reading; Haidee Manibusan, Numbers; Riko Ojima, most improved numbers; Erin Park, Haidee Manibusan, Writing.

The character trait awardees included Erin Park, helpful; Frederic Guintu, dependable; Amy Park, courteous; William Minami, obedient; Jonathan Lee, truthful; Riko Ojima, attentive; Gia Hemley, orderly; Jaime Navarro, gentle; Yenee Rhyoo, well mannered; Jina Lee, respectful; Daniel Kim, kind; Bhea Epan, cheerful; Shaina Lee, diligent; Elliot Lee, thoughtful; and Haidee Manibusan, generous.

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2. SECOND LESSON	10 -11 AM MONDAY	JUNE 15
3. THIRD LESSON	10-11 AM TUESDAY	JUNE 16
4. FOURTH LESSON	10-11 AM WEDNESDAY	JUNE 17
5. FIFTH LESSON & FINAL	10-11 AM THURSDAY	JUNE 18

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12 SIS students to spend their summer in Peru

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Destino Peru coordinator and Saipan International School teacher Mili Saiki joins students who participated in last year's Destinu Peru.

Leaving the island during the summer is always a big deal for students living on Saipan. Many of them take advantage of the free time to return to their country of origin, which include places like South Korea, Japan, China, and the Philippines. As always, traveling to any of these popular Asian destinations requires a lot of planning to ensure a space on crowded planes.

The 12 Saipan International School students who make up the group "Destino Peru" have a different plan. They too will leave the island for a few weeks, but they are packing their bags to visit a whole other continent: South America.

Peru is a country rich in tradition and history. It is the birthplace of the ancient Inca Empire and many other geographic and cultural marvels. Travelers have always been drawn to this country because of its natural beauty. Areas like Machu Picchu, Peru's most famous Inca ruins in the Andes, have always attracted visitors. In 2007, this landmark's popularity soared even more with its inception as one of the world's new seven wonders.

Tourists have also enjoyed the great culinary scene that Peru has to offer. In fact, the country's food has been highlighted in gourmet magazines across the world. Thanks to all of this, Peru has begun drawing more visitors than ever before.

The 12 students, between grades nine and 10, will leave on June 11 for Peru. Their itinerary includes five different cities: Lima, Cuzco, Puno, Arequipa, and Nazca. They will start their journey in the capital city and bustling metropolis of Lima. Here, students will visit the Palacio de Gobierno, Peru's primary seat of government, where they will be received by the vice president of the Republic of Peru, Lourdes Mendoza del Solar. They will continue their journey to Cuzco, where students will trek the Incan ruins of Ollaytaytambo, Sacsayhuaman, and Machu Picchu.

The students will then make their way to Puno, where they will visit Lake Titicaca, the largest in all of South America and, at 12,500 feet above sea level, one of the highest in the world.

Afterward, in Arequipa, students will venture to Colca Canyon where they will scout the landscapes in hopes to catch a glimpse of the endangered Andean Condor in its natural habitat.

Finally, the students will travel to Nazca where they will get a chance to overlook the beautifully mysterious Nazca Lines (yes, the same lines featured in the last Indiana Jones film). These lines are a series of markings on the base of the desert that stretch over 80 miles and form different animal figures.

Aside from this, students will also be visiting La Posadita and Caritas Felices orphanages in Lima. They will also have the opportunity to attend the schools Colegio Villa Alarife in Lima and Colegio Americano Prescott in Arequipa, carrying with them the message of friendship and diversity that characterizes the residents of the Mariana Islands.

This is the third group from Saipan International School to travel to the country. The school has always placed a strong emphasis on the importance of learning about different cultures, its traditions, peoples and language. With knowledge comes appreciation and respect of these cultures, which is a vital part of Saipan International School's philosophy.

"This trip was a life changing experience that I will keep with me forever," says Amanda Johnson, one of the members of last year's group.

"I would go back to Peru every year if I could," adds Hee Jin Kim. "It was an amazing trip and the people of Peru are great." ***(PR)***

CLICK IT OR TICKET

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Mobilization

CLICK IT OR TICKET

May 18-31, 2009

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Arvin S. Dayao, first grade student at Grace Christian Academy, shows off his trophies and medals during the Awards Day held on May 26, 2009. Among of the awards that he received are Consistent Principal's List Award, Bible Trivia Champion, Bible Sword Drill Champion, Math Olympiad Winner, 2nd Place in Science Fair, PGFC winner, and Perfect Attendance. He was also awarded a trophy for garnering the highest grade point average among first graders during the Elementary Commencement Exercise held on May 27, 2009, at the GCA Chapel.

Elle magazine to feature NMI

Fashion and lifestyle magazine *Elle* has come to the Northern Mariana Islands to produce an article for its July 2009 edition. The tropical destination will also be featured in *ELLEa Seoul*, published by Elle Korea.

The monthly magazine targets women 25-years and older with articles on hot trend, shopping, health, careers, financial investment, fashion and beauty. *Elle* editor Jeong-Won Rah and photographer Ki-Peun Lee arrived in Saipan Tuesday, May 26, on a three-day assignment that aims to position the island as one of the best summer vacation destinations for young women.

"We're looking forward to the arrival of this FAM tour and to sharing our islands with them," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We are proud to receive two pages coverage in *Elle* and a quarter page in *ELLEa Seoul* as a result of this tour."

While on Saipan, the magazine team is expected to visit local restaurants and shops, tour Managaha Island and the scenic sites and jungles of northern Saipan, visit a spa, and catch the sights and sounds of the weekly Garapan Street Market in Saipan's main tourist district. They are lodging at Marianas Resort & Spa.

Elle and *ELLEa Seoul* have a circulation of 80,000. The estimated exposure value of the coverage is US$15,000. The familiarization and research tour is sponsored by MVA, Marianas Resort & Spa, Korean Tour Association of Saipan, Tasi Tours, Revolving Restaurant 360, and Monte Vista Steak house. ***(MVA)***

Red flag up at 5 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five beaches on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Old Man by the Sea, Hidden Beach, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, and CK District 4 drainage.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of enterococci, a type of fecal indicator bacteria that can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns. DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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46"	$2499.00	$1999.00
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MT. CARMEL SCHOOL

Class of 1964

CELEBRATION OF THE 45TH CLASS REUNION JUNE 2, 2009

The first Mt. Carmel School graduates (from 1st through 12th grades) Class of 1964 is celebrating their 45th Reunion on June 2, 2009.

All Mt. Carmel School Class of 1964 and their families are cordially invited to join the Eucharistic celebration honoring the graduates and the memory of the classmates who have passed away.

The Eucharistic celebration will be held at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am on Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

Business

GM days from possible bankruptcy protection filing

DETROIT (AP)—Bondholders' overwhelming rejection of General Motors' debt-for-equity offer virtually ensures GM will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection within days.

A person familiar with discussions between GM and the government told The Associated Press any Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing would probably come around the government's Monday deadline for GM to finish restructuring or enter court protection. The person asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

The government, which has already extended nearly $20 billion in loans to GM, ordered the company to come up with a plan that 90 percent of its bondholders would agree to. But the government allowed it to offer only 10 percent of the company's stock. GM was forced to withdraw the offer Wednesday after it fell far short.

"They said no. That's it. They tried. That's why they're going to have to file," said John Pottow, a professor at the University of Michigan who specializes in bankruptcy.

GM bondholders are owed about $27 billion, the largest chunk of GM's roughly $58 billion in debt. They were offered the 10 percent stake to wipe out the debt, far short of the 58 percent they felt they deserved.

To avoid an in-court restructuring, the government had said GM must shed debt, cut labor costs and close plants. If GM enters bankruptcy protection, it would be the fourth-largest such filing in U.S. history and the largest for an industrial company.

Like its crosstown rival Chrysler, which was angling Wednesday for a judge's permission to sell most of its assets to a group headed by an Italian automaker, GM was pulled down by debt, high labor costs and a devastating sales slump.

The government has poured billions into the two companies, fearing the ripple effects of catastrophic job losses might push the economy into a depression. The pair employ more than 126,000 people in the U.S., and hundreds of thousands of others rely on the companies working for parts suppliers, dealerships and other associated businesses.

GM spokesman Tom Wilkinson said company's board would meet later this week to decide its next move. He would not reveal what percentage of bondholders accepted the debt-for-equity offer, but GM said it was "substantially less" than needed.

Meanwhile, Germany pressed for an independent future for General Motors' Europe-based Opel unit.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DEQ-098

SUBMISSION: JUNE 23, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DEVELOPMENT OF THE CNMI BROWNFIELDS VOLUNTARY RESPONSE PROGRAM GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND PROGRAM FORMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FROM **1:00 P.M., JUNE 10, 2009** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESTMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH**, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 12, 2009.**

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota.** The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. Minimum offer - $700,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Unless otherwise proposed and accepted by CDA, the remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) business days of the award. Failure to make payment of that remaining balance within ten (10) business days shall result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person are asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" attention Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director. Deadline to submit proposal is **4:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2009.**

Dated this 27th day of April, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide
1. Conditional Use 2008-1497 Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.

D. Old Business
1. None

E. New Business
1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment

F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Chrysler faces more hearings to get Fiat deal OK'd

NEW YORK (AP)—It may take two more days of testimony for Chrysler to convince a bankruptcy judge that a deal with Italian automaker Fiat is the best way to save itself from liquidation.

The automaker needs U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez to approve the sale despite protests from a group of Indiana state pension and construction funds that hold less than 1 percent of Chrysler's secured debt. If Gonzalez OKs the sale, the automaker could emerge from bankruptcy protection within weeks.

Gonzalez heard nine hours of testimony from Chrysler LLC and Fiat Group SpA officials that lasted into Wednesday evening before adjourning the hearing. Testimony is scheduled to resume Thursday morning, followed by arguments from Chrysler and the various dissenters. Gonzalez said he was prepared to continue the hearing into Friday if needed.

Meanwhile, Chrysler's U.S.-based rival General Motors Corp. moved a step closer to its own Chapter 11 filing, after a rebellion by its bondholders forced it to withdraw a plan to swap bond debt for company stock. GM said its board will meet later this week to decide its next step.

A person familiar with discussions between GM and the government said any bankruptcy protection filing would probably come around the government's Monday deadline for GM to finish restructuring or enter court protection. The person asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

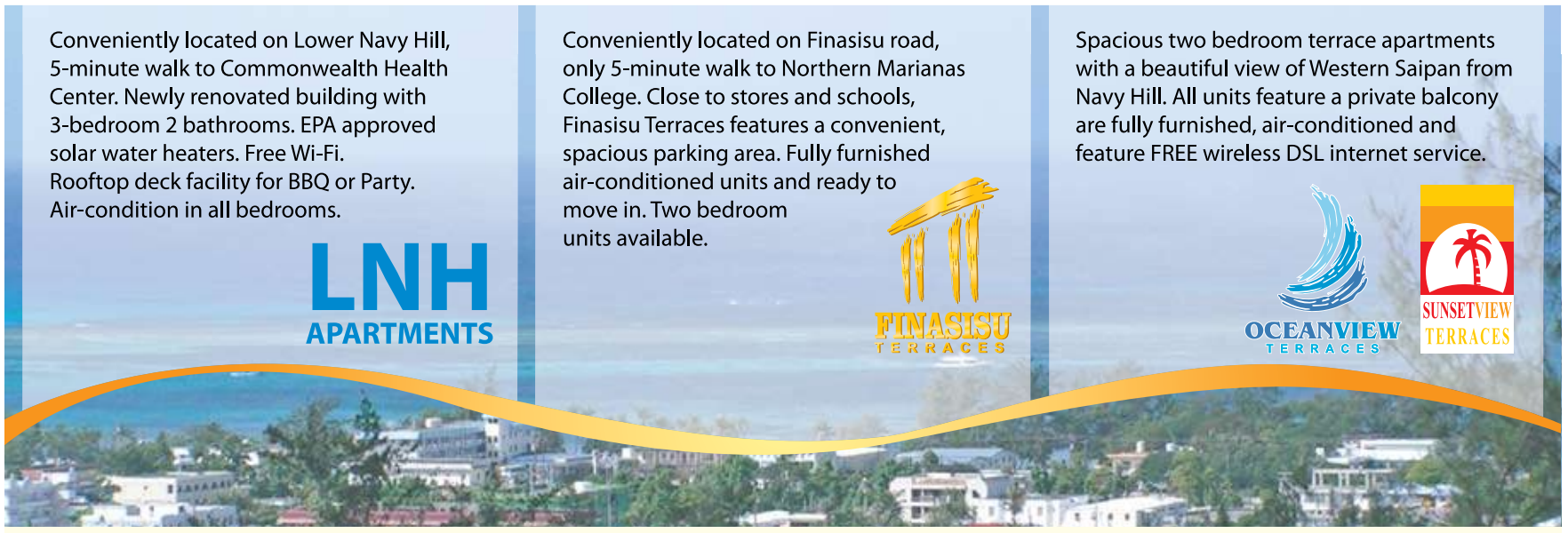
Attorneys for Chrysler say unloading the company's assets to a group led by Fiat is its only hope to avoid selling itself off piece-by-piece. They say a leaner Chrysler could shift more easily to building smaller, more fuel-efficient cars.

Fed would be risk regulator under Obama plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is proposing that the Federal Reserve serve as an all-seeing regulator to detect activities that could pose risks to the entire financial system.

Under a plan circulating among key lawmakers, the administration also is recommending a new agency to protect consumers and another aimed at protecting investors and maintaining the integrity of the markets. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. would get expanded authority to unwind troubled bank holding companies and a new government agency would conduct "prudential regulation," supervising state and federally chartered depository institutions, bank holding companies and insurance companies.

The sweeping proposals are part of six regulatory overhaul recommendations designed to address weaknesses in the financial system that contributed to the current crisis. People familiar with the plan say details still need to be hammered out. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the proposals aren't final.


Conveniently located on Lower Navy Hill, 5-minute walk to Commonwealth Health Center. Newly renovated building with 3-bedroom 2 bathrooms. EPA approved solar water heaters. Free Wi-Fi. Rooftop deck facility for BBQ or Party. Air-condition in all bedrooms.
LNH APARTMENTS
Conveniently located on Finasisu road, only 5-minute walk to Northern Marianas College. Close to stores and schools, Finasisu Terraces features a convenient, spacious parking area. Fully furnished air-conditioned units and ready to move in. Two bedroom units available.
FINASISU TERRACES
Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony are fully furnished, air-conditioned and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.
OCEANVIEW TERRACES
SUNSETVIEW TERRACES
Realty Management Services
A TanHoldings Company
Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
All our properties are equipped with ff. amenities Laundry Area Free trash collection 24-hr water and power Night-time Security Guard On call maintenance staff Ample parking space Cable ready Close to stores and schools For more information please call 285-1317 and look for Jeremy MIHA applicants are welcome & special rates for NMC Faculty Staff, PSS and Military Personnel.
PMB 521 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950-8900 • Tel: 1(670) 235-6527/28 • Fax: (670) 235-6530 • sales@rmssaipan.com • www.saipan-properties.com

Nation

No filibuster, but Sonia Sotomayor battle still looms

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans see little chance of blocking Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination, a key GOP senator conceded Wednesday. But senators and advocacy groups are still girding for this summer's battle—partly with an eye toward raising money and perhaps preparing for Barack Obama's next nominee.

Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he didn't foresee a filibuster, essentially the only way Republicans could try to stop Sotomayor since Democrats control the Senate. Still, he made it clear that Republicans were ready to raise pointed questions about whether Sotomayor, the first Hispanic nominee to the high court, would let her personal life color her legal opinions—and whether that's appropriate for a Supreme Court justice.

"We have an absolute constitutional duty to make sure that any nominee, no matter what their background and what kind of life story they have, that we examine that so the American people can know that the person we give a lifetime appointment to ... will be faithful to the law and not allow their personal views to influence decision-making," Sessions said in an interview on NBC's "Today."

Organizations that have been preparing for a major confirmation battle—and that depend on such fights to raise money, motivate supporters and galvanize enthusiasm for their agendas—made it clear they don't intend to sit out the debate, filibuster or no. The debate over Sotomayor could also lay groundwork for fights over later high court nominations the president might make.

Study says uninsured are costly for all

WASHINGTON (AP)—The average family with health insurance shells out an extra $1,000 a year in premiums to pay for health care for the uninsured, a new report finds.

And the average individual with private coverage pays an extra $370 a year because of the cost-shifting, which happens when someone without medical insurance gets care at an emergency room or elsewhere and then doesn't pay.

The report was being released Thursday by advocacy group Families USA, which said the findings—which it calls a "hidden tax"—support its goal of extending coverage to all the 50 million Americans who are now uninsured. Congress and the Obama administration are working on a plan to do that.

Families USA contracted with independent actuarial consulting firm Milliman Inc. to analyze federal data to produce the findings.

"As more people join the ranks of the uninsured, the hidden health tax is growing," said Ron Pollack, Families USA executive director. "That tax hits America's businesses and insured families hard in the pocketbook, and they therefore have a clear financial stake in expanding health care coverage."

ACROSS THE NATION

Drew Peterson calls talk show, jokes from jail

CHICAGO (AP)—Former police officer Drew Peterson cracked jokes from jail on a Chicago radio show that he called collect. He called WLS Radio's Mancow & Cassidy show on Wednesday and offered snippets of a comedy routine he's working on. Peterson once proposed a "Win a Date With Drew" contest and offered a jail version called "Win a Conjugal Visit with Drew." He also joked about prison showers, his legal fees and his "bling" handcuffs, saying humor is how he deals with stress. Peterson is charged with first-degree murder in the 2004 death of his third wife, Kathleen Savio. He's also a suspect in the 2007 disappearance of his fourth wife, Stacy Peterson. He denies wrongdoing.

DA: Missing Pa. mom, girl found at Disney World

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A suburban mother who claimed she and her daughter had been abducted and stuffed in a car trunk is in custody in Florida after the pair were found at Disney World, where they had flown hours after the mother reporting their abduction, a prosecutor said Wednesday. Bonnie Sweeten, 38, of Feasterville, will be charged with false reports and identity theft, both misdemeanors, Bucks County District Attorney Michelle Henry said. "We're pleased to be able to announce that she's in custody and more importantly that her 9-year-old daughter is safe," Henry said.

National security adviser: US safer under Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's national security adviser laid out a sweeping rebuttal Wednesday to former Vice President Dick Cheney's charge that America is less safe under the new administration.

Pointing to increases in defense spending, efforts to get out of Iraq and revamp the strategy for Afghanistan, and a broad campaign to repair the U.S. reputation abroad, retired Marine Gen. James Jones said the nation is safer today than it has been. But, he added, no administration is perfect.

"I think that the former vice president knows full well that perfection is an impossible standard," said Jones, adding that the U.S. can only do everything it can "to keep threats at bay and as far away from our shores as possible."

Jones

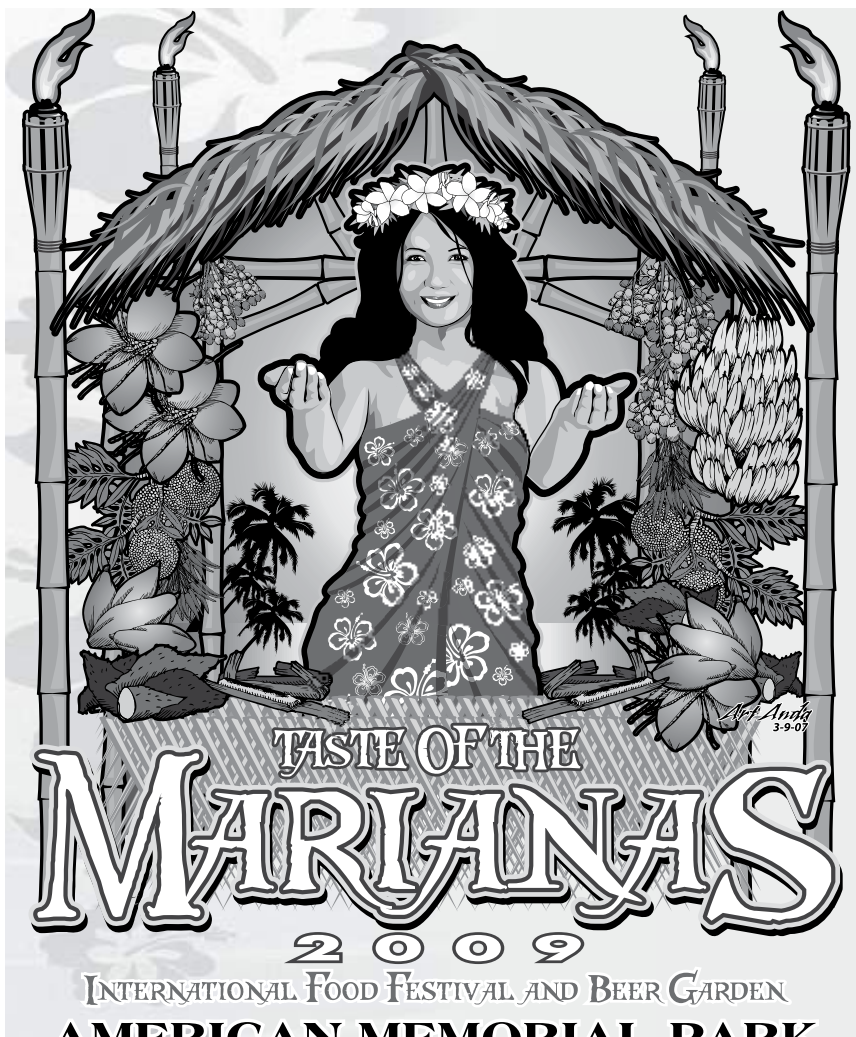
In recent speeches, Cheney has condemned Obama for ordering the shutdown of the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and banning certain harsh interrogation methods for suspected terrorists. Overturning those Bush administration programs, he said, has made the country less safe.

Jones, speaking to an Atlantic Council forum, countered that, "I firmly believe that the United States is not only safe, but will be more secure, and the American people are increasingly safer because of the president's leadership that he has displayed consistently over the last four months both at home and abroad."

Jones said that Guantanamo has served as a recruitment tool for insurgents, and as a result has probably created more terrorists than it detained.

Asked about the administration's new strategy for the Afghanistan war, Jones acknowledged that "the jury is still out" on whether the U.S. and its allies will be able to meet all their goals to improve the country's security, economy and governance. While he said the infusion of 21,000 more troops, combined with efforts to beef up the Afghan army and police, will improve security, he was less certain about the more elusive improvements to the economy and governance.

"We should know within a year if this strategy is going to be successful," said Jones, a former commandant of the Marine Corps and head of U.S. European Command.



Saturday, May 30, 2009

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Dysfunctional Dancers
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Glushko's Academy
7:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.	Angel International School of Dance
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Refaluwasch Warriors
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Inatuas Cultural Dancers (Chamorro)
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Kings and Dreamers
9:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Talofa Dancers
10:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Waldo & Violy
Intermission	Falun Dafa Association (Dance)
6:00 p.m.	Beef and Reef Chefs Competition

2009 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden (vendors):

1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan
2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
3. Hafadai Beach Hotel
4. Hyatt Regency Saipan
5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan
6. Canton Restaurant
7. Saipan World Resort
8. Sierra Pearl Shakes
9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's
10. D'Elegance Café
11. Herman's Modern Bakery
12. Hula Girl/3's
13. Thai House Restaurant
14. Poon's Restaurant
15. Ty & Tia

Beer Garden Vendors:

Pacific Trading Company
MARPAC
Northern Marianas Bartender Association

"*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit" Islandwear Fridays

Every Friday in May is *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Friday! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Share your favorite islandwear shots of yourself, your friends, co-workers, and family on Facebook at "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

The highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotels and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. Learn more about the industry through game competitions.

My Marianas Community Outreach Presentation

Learn about the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this slideshow at Taste of the Marianas and Garapan Street Market. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight turns on you, as random community members share their views on various tourism topics in this regular newspaper feature with questions and short answers.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be air regularly throughout the month on Power 99, 97.9 FM The KAT, and 103.9 FM KZMI.

KSPN 2 Tourism Month Calendar

May Tourism Month events are highlighted through out the month on cable television for your easy reference on KSPN2.

Saipan Tinian Rota

For more information contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/01.

Asia

SKorea, US troops on alert after North's threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean and U.S. troops raised their alert Thursday to the highest level since 2006 after North Korea renounced its peace treaty with the allied forces and threatened to strike any ships trying to intercept its vessels.

The move was a sign of heightened tensions on the peninsula following the North's underground nuclear test and its firing of a series of short-range missiles earlier this week.

In response, Seoul decided to join more than 90 nations that have agreed to stop and inspect vessels suspected of transporting banned weapons.North Korea claims the South's participation in the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative is a prelude to a naval blockade and raises the prospect of naval skirmish in its western waters.

On Wednesday, it renounced the 1953 truce that halted fighting in the Korean War. It said Thursday through its official media that it was preparing for an American-led attack. The U.S. has repeatedly denied it is planning military action. "The northward invasion scheme by the U.S. and the South Korean puppet regime has exceeded the alarming level," the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. "A minor accidental skirmish can lead to a nuclear war."

South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae said the South Korea-U.S. combined forces command has raised its surveillance from a level 3 to a level 2. He said the last time the alert level was that high was the in 2006, when the North conducted its first nuclear test.

Gates to press for Far East unity on NKorea threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. on Wednesday accused North Korea of "provocative and belligerent" behavior as Defense Secretary Robert Gates took on the delicate task of reassuring Asian allies of U.S. support without further provoking the communist government.

Gates flew to Singapore for meetings with foreign ministers aimed at a cohesive response to the North Korean atomic test. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton issued stern statements underscoring the firmness of U.S. treaty commitments to defend South Korea and Japan, U.S. allies in easy range of the North's missiles.

Gates' trip to meet with leaders from South Korea, Japan and other Far East nations had already been planned, but U.S. officials said North Korea's bomb and missile tests and heated rhetoric would dominate the discussions.

Gates is scheduled to visit the Philippine capital in Manila and will possibly discuss U.S. troop levels stationed there. He also planned to stop by two U.S. bases in Alaska on his way back to Washington next week.

Military officials said Wednesday there are signs of activity at North Korea's partially disabled nuclear reactor complex that could indicate work to restart the facility and resume production of nuclear fuel.

Suicide squad kills 30, wounds 250 in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide squad using guns, grenades and a van packed with explosives targeted police and Pakistan's intelligence agency Wednesday, killing 30 and wounding 250 in an assault seen as revenge for the month-old army campaign against the Taliban in the Swat Valley.

The midmorning blast on a crowded street damaged an area nearly as big as a city block, mangling cars, spraying bricks in all directions and leaving behind a swimming pool-size crater. Most of the dead and injured were civilians.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said militants were striking out because they were losing the fight with government forces battling to uproot extremists in the valley and the tribal areas in the northwest near Afghanistan.

"I believe that anti-Pakistan elements, who want to destabilize our country and see defeat in Swat, have now turned to our cities," Malik told reporters.

A group calling itself Tehrik-i-Taliban Punjab claimed responsibility for the bombing in a Turkish-language communique posted on Turkish jihadist Web sites Wednesday, saying it was related to the fight in Swat, according to SITE Intelligence Group.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cyclone Aila toll up to 191 in India, Bangladesh

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—Heavy rains caused deadly mudslides and slowed rescue efforts Wednesday after Cyclone Aila pounded eastern India and Bangladesh, killing at least 191 people. The cyclone destroyed thousands of homes and stranded millions of people in flooded villages before it began to ease Tuesday. The death toll will likely rise in both countries as rescue workers reach cut-off areas. Mudslides in India's famed Darjeeling tea district killed at least 22 people overnight, said Asim Dasgupta, the finance minister of the worst-affected West Bengal state in India.

Afghan gov't destroys books it says insult Sunnis

KABUL (AP)—The Afghan government quietly dumped more than 1,000 Shiite texts and other books from Iran into a river after a local governor complained that their content insulted the country's Sunni majority. The move appeared to be an attempt by President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-backed government to smooth over a potential thorn in relations between the Muslim sects. But instead of burying the issue along with the books at the bottom of the Helmand River, the government was facing condemnation Wednesday from Shiite leaders after news leaked a month after the dumping.

Sri Lanka army kills 11 Tamil rebels in east

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan troops on a mission to flush out the remnants of the Tamil Tiger rebels killed 11 suspected guerrillas in eastern jungles Wednesday, the military said, in the largest clash since declaring it had won its 25-year war against the insurgents. Despite that victory, the government cited the continued threat of rebel terror attacks Wednesday as justification for maintaining a 30-year-old anti-terrorism law that gives the police and military sweeping powers of search and arrest in urban centers. The political opposition had demanded the government rescind the 1979 anti-terrorism law and a state of emergency imposed after the 2005 assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, which the government blamed on the rebels.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-022

"Laptops for Ladera International School"

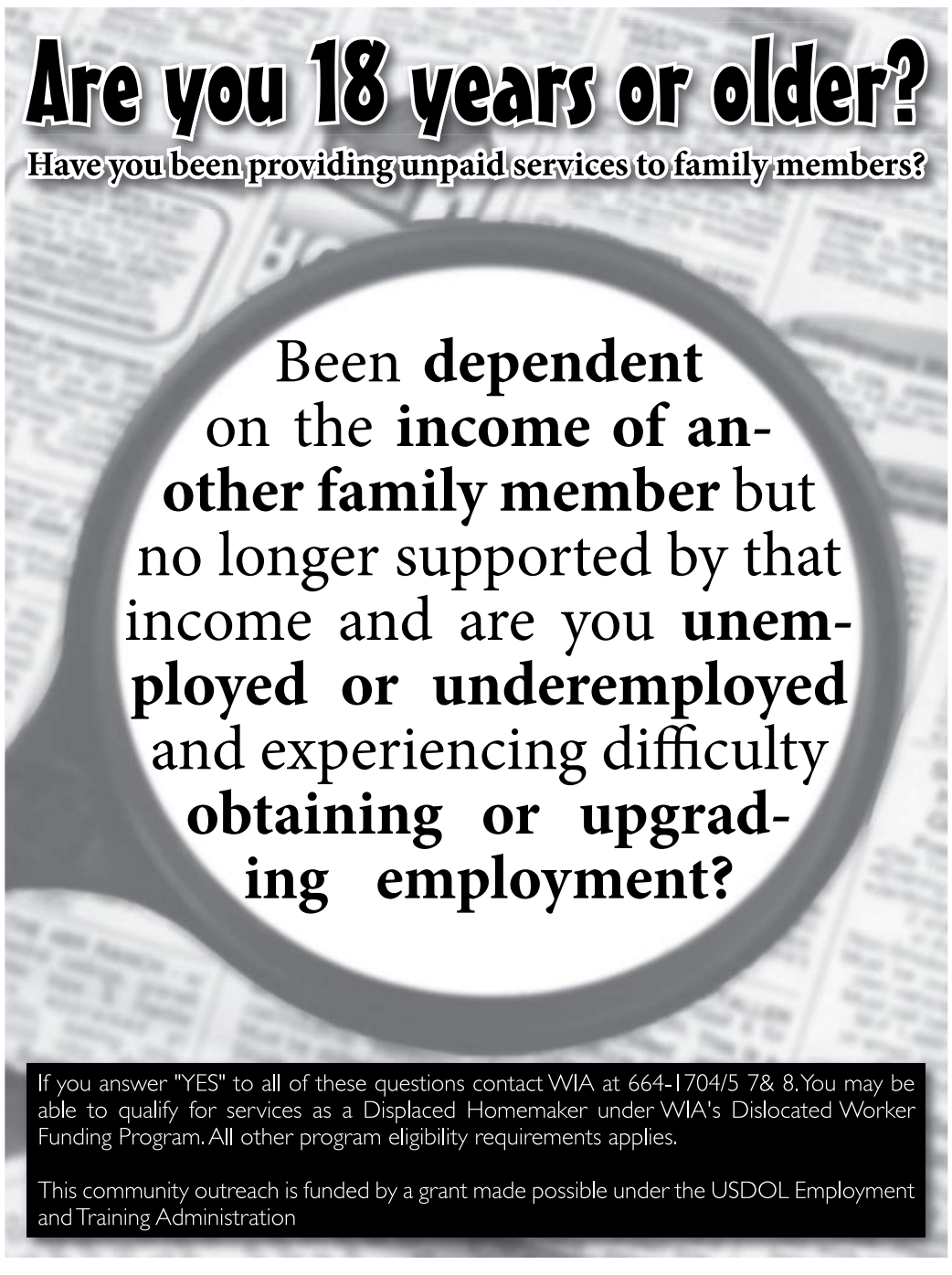
The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase and delivery of **16 units Laptops for Ladera International School.** The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-022"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 10, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.,** at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT AND FORMER GARMENT WORKERS

The former Garment Oversight Board (GOB) has established a Garment Workers Trust Fund (GWTF) to assist garment workers who are still located on Saipan with any hardships resulting from their former employment as garment workers.

For example, if you are a former garment worker and are unable to depart Saipan in order to return to your country of origin, this is one of the hardships for which you may apply to the GWTF in order to receive assistance with your repatriation expenses.

Applications for assistance will be reviewed by a panel of three trustees consisting of the former board members of the GOB and approved on a case by case basis, based on a demonstrated need or hardship which is occasioned by an applicant's former status as a garment worker. The maximum amount of any such assistance to any one applicant shall be limited by the trustees and will only be exceeded in cases of exceptional hardship. What constitutes exceptional hardship shall be a determination solely within the discretion of the GWTF trustees.

You may apply for this assistance *ONLY* by submitting a readable written application to the GWTF, there is no special form, but your written application must:
1 - identify the applicant,
2 - describe the type of hardship the applicant is experiencing,
3 - state the name of the last garment factory applicant worked for,
4 - the date applicant stopped working as a garment worker, and
5 - include how applicant can be contacted so the GWTF may inform the applicant if his/her application has been approved.

Please identify yourself and your former employment as a garment worker as accurately as possible. If the GWTF cannot verify your status as a former garment worker, your application will not be acted upon. Applications may be submitted in Chinese or English.

SEND YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan, MP 96950

Applications for this assistance shall only be accepted until August 15th, 2009.

UPON APPROVAL APPLICANTS MUST PRESENT ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE THE APPLICANT.

THE GWTF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO APPLICANTS.

通告致所有现或前成衣厂工人

前成衣监管委员会曾建立一个成衣工人基金，目的是帮助那些前就职于成衣厂因遭受困境而依然停留塞班的工人.

比如，你是前成衣厂工人,无法离开塞班,返回自己的国家. 这样的一种困境，你或许可以向成衣监管委员会提出申请，寻求回国费用方面的帮助.

包括前成衣监管委员会董事会成员的三位委托人组成工作小组负责申请审核工作. 所有获得批准的申请将根据每个个案情况，也基于证明有帮助的需要，或遇到的困境是因为申请人是原成衣厂工人的身份. 所有申请者提出要求帮助的最大金额应该由受托人设定限额，不可以超过规定的金额，除非申请人遭遇到不同寻常的困境. 如何定义不同寻常困境将完全由成衣监管委员会受托人斟酌决定.

你或许有资格提出申请帮助. 唯一的办法是向成衣监管委员会递交一份能阅读的书面申请. 申请没有特别格式，但书面申请必须包括:
1 - 申请人身份
2 - 申请人描述一下目前所经历的困境
3 - 申请人最后工作的成衣厂名字
4 - 申请人离开成衣厂的日期
5 - 如果申请获得批准,成衣监管委员会如何联系申请人

请尽量准确说明自己的身份和前就职于成衣厂的身份. 如果成衣监管委员会无法核实你是否是前成衣厂工人，将不能受理申请. 所有的申请必须是中文或英文形式.
书面申请可以邮寄到:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan MP 96950

寻求帮助的申请截止日为2009年8月15日

获得批准的申请必须出示恰当的，令人信服的身份证明以核实是申请者本人.

成衣监管委员会有权对申请人做出何种形式帮助的裁定.

World

Roadside bomb kills US soldier in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier Wednesday in Baghdad, making May the deadliest month for the American military since September.

Also Wednesday, the government's watchdog agency announced that nearly 1,000 arrest warrants have been issued this year as part of a crackdown on corruption. They include warrants for nearly 50 senior civil servants, the agency said.

The fatal attack occurred two days after a blast struck a U.S. convoy west of the capital, killing three Americans, including two civilians and a soldier.

The spike in deaths comes as U.S. forces face a June 30 deadline to pull back from urban areas as part of a U.S.-Iraqi security pact that took effect this year.

At least 20 American service members have died so far this month, compared with 25 in September, according to an Associated Press tally.

The 20 deaths include five service members killed in a May 11 shooting at a mental health clinic in Baghdad. Sgt. John M. Russell has been charged with murder in the case.

April had at least 19 American troop deaths, more than double the nine killed in March, which was the lowest since the war began in March 2003.

In Wednesday's incident, the soldier from the Multi-National Division—Baghdad died of injuries suffered when a bomb exploded near a patrol in a western section of the capital, the military said in a statement.

In all, at least 4,302 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war, according to the AP count.

Four U.S. civilians also have been killed in Iraq since Friday.

They included a top reconstruction official who once headed the Illinois Commerce Commission and a Defense Department employee working for the U.S. Embassy who were killed in the roadside bombing on Monday on the eastern outskirts of the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

A defense contractor also died in a rocket or mortar attack near the U.S. Embassy and another was found stabbed in his car on Friday.

Iraqis also have faced a resurgence of violence with a series of deadly attacks in recent months, illustrating the resilience of militants despite security gains.

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- D&Q
- Elite Printing
- Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
- Hafa Adai Beach Hotel
- HBR
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Island Apparel/UMDA
- IT&E
- JSTA
- Kautz Glass
- KCNM-KZMI
- King Fisher Golf Links
- Laolao Bay Golf Resort
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- Marianas Visitor Authority
- MARPAC
- Mobil
- Nike
- Northwest Airlines
- Pacific Eagle
- Pacific Home Appliances
- Pacific Trading Co.
- Pacific Saipan
- PIC Saipan
- Rainbow Color
- Sablan Topline
- Saipan Grand Hotel
- Saipan Sanki
- Saipan Tribune
- Saipan World Resort
- Shell Marianas
- SMG Radio Power 99/The KAT
- Star Water Co.
- Tagaki and Associates
- Tan Holdings Corp.
- The Palms on Paupau Beach
- The Water Co.
- Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
- Tournament of Champions
- Traders Insurance Co.
- Triple J Motors
- Triple J Wholesale
- WSTCO

Catholic orders plead poverty in Irish abuse

DUBLIN (AP)—The Catholic orders responsible for abusing Ireland's poorest children say they're struggling to come up with money to help their victims. Yet investigations into their net worth paint a very different picture—that of nuns and brothers with billions' worth of carefully sheltered assets worldwide.

Irish government leaders said Wednesday they expect the 18 religious orders involved in abusing children in workhouse-style schools to pay a much greater share of compensation to 14,000 state-recognized victims. They also demanded that the secretive orders reveal the true scope of their wealth for the first time in face-to-face negotiations with the government.

"We have to ascertain how much they actually have. The government is adamant and determined that they will make an appropriate contribution," Defense Minister Willie O'Dea said.

The push follows last week's publication of a nine-year investigation into the widespread sexual, physical and psychological abuse of children in church care from the 1930s to 1990s, when the last of the special schools, reformatories and orphanages closed.

On Wednesday, about half of the 18 orders announced they would meet with the government. All reiterated apologies for their role in harming children—but none said they would contribute more than promised in a 2002 deal with the government that left taxpayers paying almost all of the euro1.1 billion ($1.5 billion) bill to settle the abuse claims.

Reform candidate's wife new political star in Iran

TABRIZ, Iran (AP)—Presidential hopeful Mir Hossein Mousavi waited in the wings as his wife warmed up the crowd. Zahra Rahnavard quickly had them roaring in approval—and her husband beaming—as she ticked off her demands for women's rights and other reforms.

"We love you, Rahnavard!" shouted the Tabriz University students, as Mousavi clapped.

While the political power couple is a common fixture in the West, Rahnavard is rewriting the role of political spouse in conservative Iran—and could give a boost to her husband's candidacy in the June 12 presidential election.

With her sharp wit and fluid oratory, Rahnavard has fast become a political draw on her own, as well as an important asset to her husband's campaign as the main pro-reform challenger to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Masoud Heidari, a rights activist, said the country "needs to respond to accumulated demands from women and Rahnavard is playing a deservedly good role in that direction."

She brings a rare mix: the liberal cry to fire up reformers, paired with the revolutionary credentials that bring grudging respect from hard-liners.

Even her outfit gives a nod in both directions—an ultraconservative head-to-toe black chador, with a colorful head scarf peeking out and a bag made by traditional village weavers.

WORLD BRIEFS

Analysis: Somali infighting could help al-Qaida

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—As battles rage between Somalia's Western-backed government and Islamist insurgents, another conflict is being fought behind the scenes between competing versions of Islam. The winner may determine not only the future of the failed state, but whether al-Qaida establishes permanent bases in the strategically vital Horn of Africa. Fighting has intensified in the past two weeks as insurgents attempt to push the government from the capital; nearly 200 people have been killed. The bloodshed has been fueled by the arrival of hundreds of radicalized foreign fighters who, experts fear, could use Somalia as a base for terror in the region.

In Venezuela, hundreds march for press freedom

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Hundreds of opponents of President Hugo Chavez marched in support of press freedom in Venezuela on Wednesday, two years after his government refused to renew the concession of an opposition-aligned television station. Many protesters also waved flags in support of Globovision—a second anti-Chavez channel now under investigation by broadcast regulators. "In a democracy, there is at least freedom of expression," said Caracas mayor Antonio Ledezma, an opposition leader who's been subordinated to a Chavez-appointed official since he was elected in November.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-022

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Emergency Generator and Water Storage Tank for the Division of Medical Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the ***Supply, Delivery and Installation of Emergency Generator and Water Storage Tank for the Division of Medical Supply Office,*** Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after May 22, 2009, at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)**, is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID is preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 09 2009, 9:30 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Joeten Commercial B]dg. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 12, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr.** Director of Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-022"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 17, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 17, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 17, 2009, and must be received no later than June 26, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the D.S Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Grant.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-021

RENOVATION OF SAN ISIDRO BEACH PARK PHASE II, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Work; (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of San Isidro Beach Park Phase II, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 22, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$ 100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per **Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 16, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB.021**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m, local time, June 19, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time June 19, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@pticom.com.** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 19, 2009, and must be received no later than June 30, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, July 03, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on, June 24, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 14660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (**90**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in The best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-024

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Emergency Generators for WIC Clinic and Administration Building, Phase I, Navy Hill

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the ***Supply, Delivery and Installation of Emergency Generator for WIC Clinic and Administration Building, Phase I,*** Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after May 22, 2009, at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)**, is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID is preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 09 2009, 10:30 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Joeten Commercial B]dg. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 12, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr.** Director of Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-024"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 17, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 17, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 17, 2009, and must be received no later than June 26, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the D.S Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Grant.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Accused tire slasher blames mom, radiation, braces

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Police said a man arrested for slashing the tires of nearly 50 vehicles blamed his mother, radiation and braces for the spree. Officers arrested 31-year-old man last Thursday on suspicion of criminal mischief and carrying a concealed weapon. Police say one officer spotted the suspect crouched behind a police SUV at about 7:15 p.m. Thursday, went to investigate and discovered a tire leaking air. Boulder police spokeswoman Sarah Huntley said the man indicated he was frustrated over his relationship with his mother and blamed radiation from the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Golden. He also said his desire to slash tires stemmed from his getting braces in the 1990s. Police said he's admitted slashing tires on 46 vehicles.

Man, 81, charged for clearing pothole for repair

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man said he chipped away loose material to prepare a pothole for repair and thought he was helping the city, not breaking the law. An undercover police officer spotted 81-year-old James Stacy in the street near Stacy's home with a pickax and a broom last week. Stacy said he cleared the 3-foot-wide hole because he expected a crew to patch it and wanted the patch to last longer. Public works manager Paul Barnett said he'd always like to do such cleaning. But he said it created a greater safety hazard until the hole was patched. Police charged Stacy with criminal damaging, saying he destroyed fresh asphalt and ignored an officer's warning. Stacy denies that. He is scheduled in court Tuesday and faces up to 90 days in jail.

Ex-schools trustee gets probation in ketchup theft

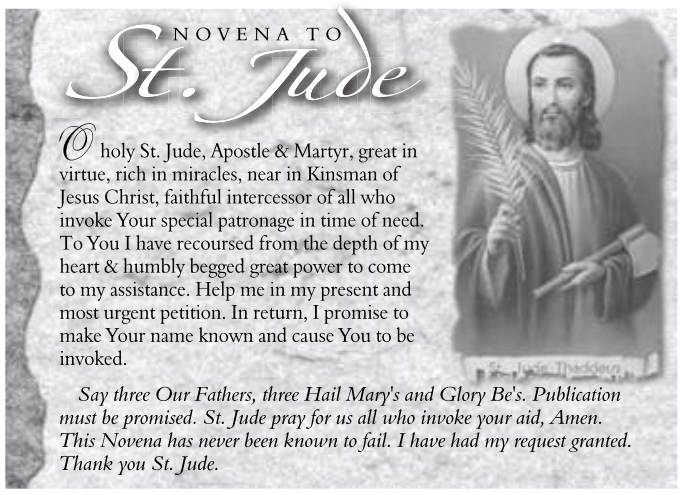
SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A former school board trustee from Southern California has been sentenced to two years of informal probation for stealing a bottle of ketchup from a college dining area. Orange County Superior Court Judge Jacki Brown on Tuesday also ordered Steve Rocco to pay about $200 in fines and stay 100 yards away from the college. Rocco was convicted by a jury last month of misdemeanor petty theft for stealing a 14-ounce bottle of ketchup from a Chapman University dining area. The eccentric former Orange Unified School District trustee known for espousing conspiracy theories claims authorities planted the ketchup near his bicycle to make it look like a theft when he was recycling the bottle. He says he will appeal.

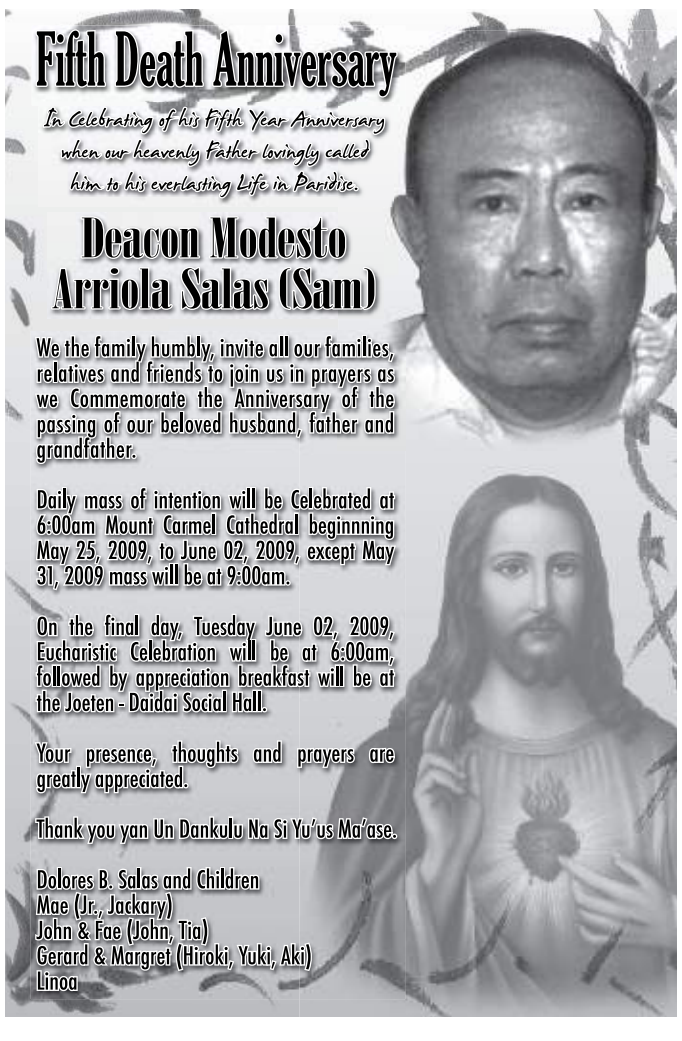
LA County says OK to couple's goats, llama, emu

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Southern California couple will not be allowed to have 15 goats. They'll have to settle for 10 goats, two horses, a llama and an emu. Roberto Alguero (all-GEH'-roe) and Iris Fiorito (fee-oh-REE'-toe) live in an unincorporated area near Claremont zoned for light agricultural use. They had originally asked for a permit to keep 15 goats, but Los Angeles County's planning commission granted them a permit allowing them 10, along with the rest of their menagerie. Neighbors filed objections complaining of the noise and stench at the farm-like house, but the Board of Supervisors ruled Tuesday that the couple could keep the animals, provided they build a 6-foot wall and keep male and female goats separate. Fiorito concedes that "we know we have a few more goats than we should."

Feds plug leak: Alleged elevator urinator charged

DETROIT (AP)—An agent used surveillance cameras to confirm a smelly suspicion: Someone had been urinating in a freight elevator at an Internal Revenue Service data center in Detroit. Authorities filed a criminal charge Tuesday against Michael Hicks. In an affidavit, treasury agent Delmaria Scott said she interviewed Hicks in January 2008 and he admitted urinating in the elevator for months. Scott said Hicks did it "because he felt he could get away with it." It cost $4,600 to clean the elevator. Hicks, who was a contract employee at the IRS, was charged with damaging federal property.


NOVENA TO
St. Jude
O holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in Kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke Your special patronage in time of need. To You I have recoursed from the depth of my heart & humbly begged great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent petition. In return, I promise to make Your name known and cause You to be invoked.
Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid, Amen.
This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted.
Thank you St. Jude.


Fifth Death Anniversary
In Celebrating of his Fifth Year Anniversary when our heavenly Father lovingly called him to his everlasting Life in Paridise.
Deacon Modesto Arriola Salas (Sam)
We the family humbly, invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we Commemorate the Anniversary of the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather.
Daily mass of intention will be Celebrated at 6:00am Mount Carmel Cathedral beginnning May 25, 2009, to June 02, 2009, except May 31, 2009 mass will be at 9:00am.
On the final day, Tuesday June 02, 2009, Eucharistic Celebration will be at 6:00am, followed by appreciation breakfast will be at the Joeten - Daidai Social Hall.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you yan Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Dolores B. Salas and Children
Mae (Jr., Jackary)
John & Fae (John, Tia)
Gerard & Margret (Hiroki, Yuki, Aki)
Linoa

Science & Technology

New Bluetooth headsets let you shoot the breeze

NEW YORK (AP)—Bluetooth wireless headsets have become a lot better in the last few years at picking out the user's voice from noisy surroundings.

But a key problem has persisted: If you're in a breezy place, it's been hard to make yourself heard above the sound of the wind whistling over the microphone.

The latest generation of high-end headsets, with prices ranging from $100 to $130, promise to do a better job at wind suppression. I tested three of them in locales that included a windy rooftop and the streets of New York.

Three Bluetooth headsets: the BlueAnt Q1, the Plantronics Voyager Pro and Jawbone Prime, top to bottom, are photographed in New York Wednesday May 27, 2009.

The contenders were:

■ The $100 Voyager PRO, from Plantronics Inc. of Santa Cruz, Calif. This model is sort of a throwback, bucking the trend toward smaller headsets. Most of its bulk sits behind the ear, like a hearing aid. A long boom brings the microphone close to your mouth. That helps with the audio pickup at the price of making you look like you escaped off the bridge of the starship Enterprise.

The Voyager is heavier than the other headsets, but sits comfortably on the ear. General noise suppression is excellent. Wind suppression is not that good, but the Voyager has a very smart feature that makes up for that: It connects the microphone to the earbud, so the wearer can hear when the microphone is picking up the wind. Often, just turning your head away from the wind will get rid of most of the noise, and the Voyager lets you figure out how to do that.

The Voyager yields 6 hours of talk time before needing to be recharged, compared to 4 to 4.5 hours for the other models.

■ The $130 Jawbone Prime, from San Francisco-based Aliph. This company has built a reputation for making headsets with good noise cancellation. They do this by sensing vibrations in your jawbone to figure out when you're saying something.

The latest model is slimmer and has noticeably better incoming audio quality and wind suppression than the first Jawbone. But overall, the other two headsets in the test did better in the wind, and with street noise.

The user interface on the Jawbone is particularly difficult to master. For instance, you redial your last outgoing call by triple-tapping a button. Any gadget that expects me to triple-tap is overestimating my rhythmic abilities. To make it worse, this is a button that does other things if you tap it once, or if you hold it for two seconds, and it reacts differently to those actions depending on whether you're on a call or not.

■ The $130 Q1 from BlueAnt Wireless Pty Ltd. of Australia. This headset looks ordinary, but hides a lot of smarts: It takes voice commands and talks to you. If you want to redial a call, you push a button and say "Redial." If you want to connect the headset to a new phone, you say "Pair me," and it walks you through the process in a patient male voice. If you can't remember the keywords, push the button and ask "What can I say?"

BlueAnt's V1, which came out last year, was the first headset with built-in voice recognition. The Q1 improves on it with a sleeker look and sharper audio quality. In fact, the Q1 did very well both in noisy environments and in the wind, despite lacking an extended boom or a jawbone sensor.

So the Q1 is my pick of the batch. The voice-controlled interface alone makes it stand out, and the audio performance makes it even more attractive. Like other headsets, it works with Bluetooth-equipped phones from any wireless carrier. Unfortunately, the Q1 is sold only through Sprint stores until about June 7, when it will be available in other stores and online.

Changing an e-mail program, then backing up its files

Q. I use Netscape 7.1 for e-mail and I'm stuck—I can't back up my messages because I don't know where Netscape puts them, nor can I copy them into a new program.

A. This reader has two problems. One has an easy solution, and the other does not.

You definitely don't want to keep using the obsolete, abandoned Netscape. Install the free, open-source Mozilla Thunderbird e-mail program (mozillamessaging.com), and you won't need to find your Netscape mail; Thunderbird can import it for you. A tech-support article has details; visit mozilla.org/support/thunderbird/ and search for "netscape."

But your Thunderbird e-mail, with other files kept by your programs, will still be hidden by Windows—one of the dumber things that operating system does. (Microsoft's story is that it didn't want users to delete these files by mistake.)

Some backup programs will automatically back up mail and other files in this data folder. If yours doesn't, you can make the folder visible. In Windows XP, go to the My Computer window's Tools menu and choose "Folder Options"; in Windows Vista, go to that window's Organize menu and choose "Folder and Search Options." In either version, click the Folder Options window's View tab, then click the button next to "Show hidden files and folders."

You can also navigate to this hidden folder by typing "c:\Documents and Settings\(your user name)\Application Data" in XP or, in Vista, "c:\Users\(your user name)\AppData\Local" in the My Computer window's address bar. (You'd replace "(your user name)" with the name you see when you log in to the computer.) Thunderbird e-mail is stored in a folder named "Thunderbird," and most other programs also store their data in folders named after themselves. ***(The Washington Post)***

Life & Style

41 kids make national spelling bee semifinals

WASHINGTON (AP)—Deborah Horton made the most of her time in the national spelling spotlight. She greeted the officials with a perky "hello" on Wednesday and asked every question imaginable about a word she could spell in her sleep.

"Efficient." She wanted all the pronunciations and the part of speech. She wanted it in a sentence. She paused between each letter, then was jubilant when told she got it right.

It was a moment to savor. Of the record 293 participants at 82nd Scripps National Spelling Bee, only 41 moved on to the nationally televised semifinals that start Thursday morning, and Deborah didn't score well enough the written test a day earlier to advance.

"It's a bummer—b-u-m-m-e-r," Deborah said as she commiserated with her mother. At least Deborah's eyes were dry—many non-qualifiers were in tears as they left the hotel ballroom.

"At least I have the pride of spelling my word right," said the 13-year-old seventh-grader from Gainesville, Va., a first-time participant. "I had a lot of fun."

Written test scores were combined with the oral rounds Wednesday to determine the semifinalists. A dozen or so spellers will complete in the finals in prime time Thursday for a trophy that comes with more than $40,000 in cash and prizes.

Expected to be in that final group are several returning favorites. Fourteen-year-old Keiko Bridwell of Duncan, S.C., back for the fourth time after tying for 17th last year, had no problem with "swivel" and "mahout" (one who keeps or drives elephants) in her oral rounds and breezed into the semifinals.

Is it easier now because she's a veteran?

"More pressure," Keiko said. "Everybody wants me to do better."

She and her father-coach Barry have mixed feelings about her final year of eligibility in the bee.

"I work with her every day. I enjoy our time studying words; we both enjoy words. I'm going to miss that part of it—but I won't miss the pressure," Barry Bridwell said. Among the milestones Wednesday was the first speller to represent China. Kun Jacky Qiao is a 12-year-old seventh-grader at the Beijing BISS International School, which caters to the children of expatriates. His family moved to Canada six years ago and has since moved back to China.

Although he was visiting the United States for the first time, Jacky looked right at home. He raced through the word "rasgado" so fast and confidently that the row of officials didn't respond immediately. He then looked at the judges and said: "Correct?"

When they told him he was, he pumped both arms and traded high fives with fellow competitors on the way back to his seat.

But the competition appeared to sap his energy.

"I'm a bit sleepy right now, so my memory's, like, all gone," he said to reporters afterward. He didn't make the semifinals.

The bee has included international competitors for three decades, with two winners coming from outside the 50 states: Hugh Tosteson of Puerto Rico in 1975 and Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998. This year's field also includes spellers from far-off places such as New Zealand, Ghana and South Korea.

Brown sued by photographer for bodyguard scuffle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On the day Chris Brown took to YouTube to say he's "not a monster," a photographer sued the R&B singer, saying Brown's bodyguards beat him as he tried to take pictures at a gym.

Robert Rosen sued Brown and LA Fitness International, claiming he was assaulted by a bodyguard after snapping pictures in a gym in Universal City. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for multiple claims, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence.

The suit states Rosen snapped photos of Brown and friends on the basketball court at the LA Fitness on May 13, roughly a month after the singer's arrest for allegedly assaulting then-girlfriend Rihanna. Brown has pleaded not guilty in that case, which is scheduled for a hearing Thursday.

Rosen's lawsuit states he fell down a flight of stairs after being chased by Brown's bodyguards, who assaulted him. It does not allege violence by Brown.

Rosen also claims he was blocked from leaving the gym by a gym employee. A phone recording at LA Fitness' headquarters said the company was closed on Wednesday evening and did not allow a message to be left.

"This is a specious and frivolous lawsuit by one of the paparazzi seeking publicity and a payday," Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, said in a statement. "He's done this before and lost. We will vigorously defend against this."

'Slumdog' filmmakers meet poor kid stars in Mumbai

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The makers of "Slumdog Millionaire" met the film's two impoverished child stars on Wednesday and reassured them they will soon have new homes. But the father of one of the children stormed out, saying the filmmakers have not done enough to help.

Rubina Ali, 9, and Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, both lost their homes this month after city authorities demolished parts of their slum in Mumbai. Rubina has been staying with relatives and Azhar has been living in a makeshift shanty of tarps and blankets with his parents.

"We've been trying for a long time to move them into legal accommodation," director Danny Boyle told reporters at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on the outskirts of Mumbai, where he and producer Christian Colson met the children and their families.

Relations between the filmmakers and the children's families have grown tense since the phenomenal success of the film, which grossed more than $326 million.

The filmmakers set up a trust aimed at ensuring the children get proper homes, a decent education, a monthly stipend and a nest egg when they finish high school. They have pledged to spend up to $100,000 to buy the two families new apartments and have donated $747,500 to a charity to help slum children across Mumbai.

Colson has described the trust as substantial, but will not tell anyone how much it contains—not even the children's parents—for fear of making the youngsters vulnerable to exploitation.

Nirja Mattoo, who helps oversee the children's trust, said a new home has been found for Azhar's family near to his school and neighborhood. "We are finalizing the deal. Next week it should be done," she said.

The hunt for Rubina's house continues, she added.

AP

"Slumdog Millionaire" director Danny Boyle poses with the film's child stars Rubina Ali, 9, right, and Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, left at a press conference in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

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UP
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Edgar Asner, Paul Eiding
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Carl Fredricksen is a 78 year old balloon salesman who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip—an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell.

Drag Me To Hell
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Alison Lohman, Justin Long
Drama, Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Christine Brown is an ambitious L.A. loan officer with a charming boyfriend, Professor Clay Dalton. Life is good until the mysterious Mrs. Ganush arrives at the bank to beg for an extension on her home loan. Should Christine follow her instincts and give the old woman a break? Or should she deny the extension to impress her boss, Mr. Jacks, and get a leg-up on a promotion?

★ ★ ★

Terminator Salvation
Friday 4:15 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

Angels and Demons
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Night at the Museum 2
Friday 4:10 7:15 9:40
Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

Star Trek
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Dance Flick
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Gal pal dreams of being more than just a friend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old woman who is deeply smitten with a close friend I'll call "Andy." He often tells me about other women he's interested in. As his friend, I am more than happy to listen to his troubles and offer advice. At the same time, it's not always easy to hear about these women because of my feelings for him.

Do you think that once someone is in the "friend zone" it's possible to move beyond that? Or am I doomed to a lifetime of being "the friend"?

WANTING MORE IN NEW YORK

DEAR WANTING MORE: You are not "doomed to a lifetime of being the friend" unless you aid and abet the "perp." Your problem is you are making yourself too available. It's time to start developing other interests and other relationships. What Andy needs is a chance to miss you. And if that doesn't happen, you will have already moved on.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter is 33 and living in another state. We haven't seen her in three years. Her life has been going steadily downhill since high school, her periods of employment are becoming shorter and less frequent. She calls more often than before because she needs money.

We have urged her to get therapy (we have no idea what her problems are) and have offered to pay for it.

My wife and I know we can't influence our daughter to change her life, but we agonize when we think about her wasted life. We have mourned loved ones who have died and have been able to move on, but every morning I think about my daughter, and my heart breaks a little more each time. Is there help for parents like us who need to let go?

ANGUISHED DAD IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DAD: My heart goes out to you. Yes, there is help, and it is the same kind of help you offered to your daughter. As much as you love her, until she is ready to accept that she needs professional help to get back on track there is nothing you or anyone can do.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings close with something called the Serenity Prayer. It applies to many people in many situations, and it may bring some comfort to you. It reads: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Rick," and I own a small business with a partner, "Mike," who is in his late 40s and a confirmed bachelor. He constantly invites my husband out to dinner, ball games, drinks, etc. without ever including me. Rick always declines.

I think this is rude. Am I being overly sensitive? Do you think he's trying to show my husband what he's missing?

IGNORED IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR IGNORED: I don't think you're being overly sensitive. Because this is happening repeatedly, the implications are insulting. If Mike had any degree of social sensitivity he would realize—after many turn-downs— that your husband prefers socializing with you to boys' nights out.

As to Mike possibly trying to show your husband what he's missing, I don't know. What IS he missing?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Idol' winner Allen is ready for tour and album

NEW YORK (AP)—A year ago, Kris Allen was planning on finishing college and getting a "regular job."

The 23-year-old singer from Conway, Ark., says he was looking forward to getting married (he tied the knot last September) and knew he needed a career plan.

"I was like, `You know what? I've got to figure something out.' I went back to college and I was gonna finish school and hopefully something would happen. Just kind of have a regular job, regular life and `American Idol' stepped in," Allen said in a recent interview.

Now the season eight winner of the Fox singing competition (he won the title last week over Adam Lambert) is looking forward to the "American Idol" summer tour, which kicks off July 5 in Portland, Ore.

Allen is also looking forward to recording an album that's like the music he performed on "Idol"—but kicked up a notch.

"I want it to be different. I want to put out music that's gonna be completely different than what's going on right now in the music world," he says.

Allen says he and his wife, Katy, are learning to deal with being in the spotlight.

He says Katy had to stop using the social networking Web site Facebook because she received so many messages after he won "Idol."

AP

Kris Allen, winner of the "American Idol" television show, is interviewed in New York, Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

'Idol' winner Clarkson is a Susan Boyle fan

HONG KONG (AP)—From one talent show contestant to another: well done.

Kelly Clarkson, the winner of the debut season of "American Idol" in 2002, says she's a fan of surprise British singing star Susan Boyle, adding to a growing number of celebrity admirers that already include Oprah Winfrey and Demi Moore.

Clarkson

Boyle, the 47-year-old church volunteer with a powerful voice, overcame a dowdy image to become an Internet sensation after her performance on the talent show "Britain's Got Talent" was posted on YouTube.

"I think it's awesome. I'm bawling whenever I hear her sing," Clarkson told The Associated Press in Hong Kong, saying Boyle's rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables" sounded beautiful.

Clarkson was in Hong Kong promoting her new album, "All I Ever Wanted."

The 27-year-old singer said she still tries to catch "American Idol" when she can and defended the show against criticism that it has welcomed candidates with previous record deals or experience in other talent contests. "Idol" rules only require that contestants not be under a record or management contract when they audition.

"I personally think if someone has been affiliated with the industry, who cares? That just means they've been working hard and trying to get in the door," Clarkson said. "Regardless, you're going to be an amateur talent. It's not like you've had a huge record deal and toured the world. It's not like they're going to be some huge threat."

But she said the show' success has put more pressure on contestants.

During the taping of the first season, "No one knew what to expect. No one knew if it was going to be successful," Clarkson said. "But now people know the stakes."

Report: Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman Broadway bound

NEW YORK (AP)—Together again for the first time—Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig—on stage.

Nothing has been officially confirmed but two of Hollywood's reigning hunks may be paired next fall on Broadway in "A Steady Rain," a two-character drama by Keith Huff.

The New York Post reported Wednesday the actors were set to star in the play about two Chicago policemen, friends since childhood, whose lives take divergent paths after an unnerving incident.

"A Steady Rain" was a big hit in Chicago in September 2007 at a small theater and transferred the following year to another venue for a commercial run.

Craig

The Chicago Tribune called the play an "exceptionally rich, gritty and emotional drama ... it will get you right where you live," while the Chicago Sun-Times cheered its "action-packed storytelling."

Huff, who has a master's from the University of Iowa's Playwright's Workshop, has extensive regional theater credits. "A Steady Rain" would be his Broadway debut. A telephone call to his agent, John Buzzetti, seeking confirmation of the production, was not returned.

"A Steady Rain" would also be the New York stage debut for Craig, who skyrocketed to film stardom as the latest cinematic James Bond. Jackman, the movies' Wolverine from all the "X-Men" movies, proved to be a major Broadway box-office draw five years ago, playing entertainer Peter Allen in the musical "The Boy from Oz."

The Post said "A Steady Rain" would be produced by Barbara Broccoli, whose father was Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, who began the enormously lucrative James Bond film franchise.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Eminem's 'Relapse' tops charts, sells 608,000

NEW YORK (AP)—Eminem's new album, "Relapse," has sold more copies in its first week of release than any other album this year. Nielsen SoundScan says the Detroit rapper's first album in nearly five years sold 608,000 copies. "Relapse" is Eminem's fifth straight No. 1 album. His last disc, 2004's "Encore," sold 711,000 in its first week—though that was only across four days. It went on to sell 5.1 million copies. Last week's chart topper, Green Day's "21st Century Breakdown," slid to No. 2, adding 166,000 copies sold to the 215,000 copies the band sold in its initial, abbreviated three-day sales week.

Diego Luna wants paparazzi to face legal penalties

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican actor Diego Luna wants the paparazzi to face legal penalties for meddling in the private lives of celebrities. The actor has been hounded by photographers trying to capture images of his daily life since his son was born in August. Mexican magazines have recently published photos of Luna at a bar with a fellow actress and dancing with an unknown woman under scandalous headlines. Luna, who is married to Mexican actress Camila Sodi, says it saddens him that so much time is spent talking about "insignificant things, gossip and false information." Luna, whose movie credits include "Milk" and "Y Tu Mama Tambien," made the comments Wednesday during a news conference to promote his new film "Mister Lonely."

Terri Seymour gets restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Terri Seymour has received a temporary restraining order against a woman accused of choking her outside the "American Idol" finale. Seymour, who is the ex-girlfriend of "Idol" judge Simon Cowell and a correspondent for "Extra," requested the protection on Tuesday. Police arrested Janice Thibodeaux (TI'-bo-doh) last week after officers say they saw her try to choke Seymour outside the Nokia Theater where "Idol" is produced. Seymour says she remains scared of Thibodeaux because she has been released from jail. In an interview with RadarOnline.com Thibodeaux says she didn't regret her actions and explains that they were in retaliation for Cowell playfully choking fellow "Idol" judge Paula Abdul on the show.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE CAR IS ROLLING INTO THE ROAD!!
WHAT IF SOMEONE HITS IT?!?
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LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT! THERE'S NO ONE DRIVING!!
THERE IT GOES.!!
I CAN'T WATCH!
GRUNTCH
NOBODY HIT IT! IT JUST WENT INTO THE RAVINE ACROSS THE STREET.
HOORAY, WE'RE DEAD.
5/29
WATTERSON

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I DO NOT WANT TO PLAY "PIÑATA"!
NO HABLO INGLÉS, SEÑOR
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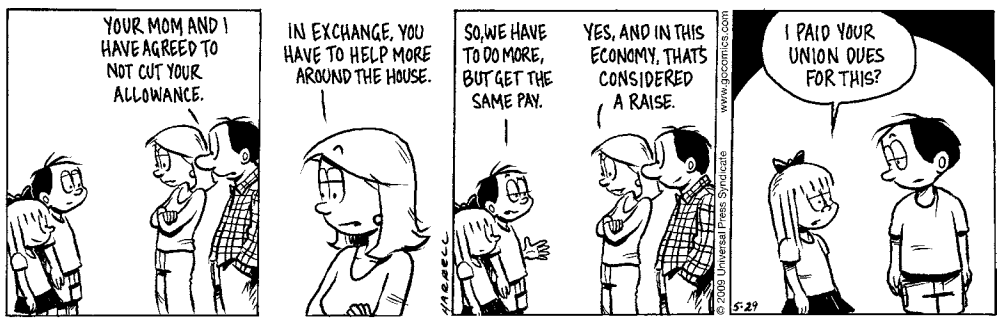
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOUR MOM AND I HAVE AGREED TO NOT CUT YOUR ALLOWANCE.
IN EXCHANGE, YOU HAVE TO HELP MORE AROUND THE HOUSE.
SO, WE HAVE TO DO MORE, BUT GET THE SAME PAY.
YES, AND IN THIS ECONOMY, THAT'S CONSIDERED A RAISE.
I PAID YOUR UNION DUES FOR THIS?
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate
www.gocomics.com
5-29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU WANNA PLAY TWENTY QUESTIONS?
NO. IT'S TOO EASY PLAYING THAT WITH YOU.
AW, COME ON! I THOUGHT OF A GOOD ONE. YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT IT...
A SQUEAKY BONE.
DANG.
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
5-29-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

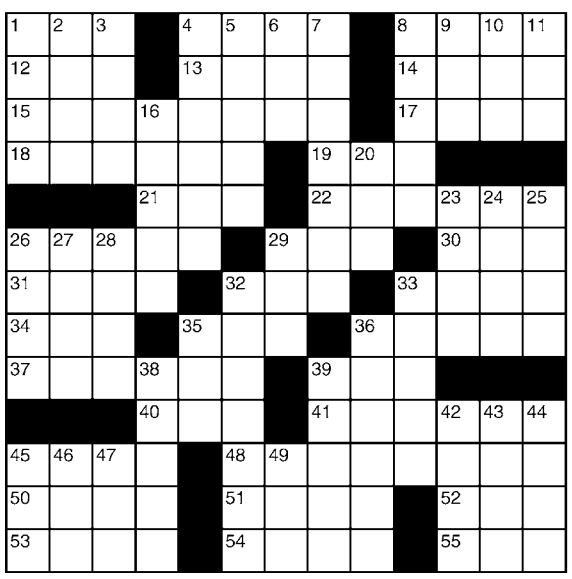
ACROSS
1 Hard wood
4 Bottle stopper
8 Remain
12 — Jima
13 Reed instrument
14 Misplace
15 Stats on a perp
17 "My bad"
18 Hits, old-style
19 Pair
21 Raw rock
22 Pomeranian, e.g.
26 Monetary gain
29 Join together
30 Inseparable
31 Grad
32 More, to Manuel
33 Grown-up nits
34 Officeholders
35 Henhouse invader
36 Moisten
37 Serviette
39 Debtor's letters
40 USNA rank
41 Swamp
45 Spill the beans
48 Astaire specialty
50 Tiny bit
51 Prior nights
52 AAA task
53 Silent
54 Depend (on)
55 "Monty Python" opener

DOWN
1 Melodies
2 Crossed the Channel
3 Arizona tribe
4 Hold together
5 Unpleasantly plump?
6 Caviar, essentially
7 Vessels for boiling
8 John B of song
9 As well
10 Cleo's slayer
11 Undeniably
16 Rampage
20 Bankroll
23 Porter's "Let's —"
24 Formerly
25 Will of "The Waltons"
26 Reclined
27 Radius' neighbor
28 Point
29 Tussaud's material
32 Lab creation?
33 Michelle's predecessor
35 Half a sawbuck
36 "Give a hoot — don't pollute!" owl
38 Skewered entree
39 Urge
42 Con
43 Highlander
44 Wields a needle
45 Auction action
46 Bud's co-star
47 $ dispenser
49 Rd.

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	E	B	B	■	G	R	A	F	■	D	E	B
A	X	L	E	■	L	I	S	A	■	O	S	U
S	P	O	T	L	I	G	H	T	■	G	A	L
H	O	T	T	U	B	■	■	A	W	F	U	L
■	■	■	E	X	■	D	E	L	H	I	■	■
S	C	A	R	■	E	R	A	■	O	G	R	E
O	I	L	■	■	P	A	S	■	■	H	I	S
B	A	L	D	■	E	W	E	■	S	T	O	P
■	■	R	E	B	E	L	■	W	E	■	■	■
S	W	I	N	E	■	■	A	E	R	A	T	E
L	A	G	■	H	O	L	D	T	I	G	H	T
U	G	H	■	A	W	E	D	■	A	R	I	A
M	E	T	■	N	E	T	S	■	L	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 5-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melanie Brown, 34; Melissa Etheridge, 48; Adrian Paul, 50; Annette Bening, 51

Happy Birthday: You have lots to bring to the table whether it's with family, friends or someone who needs your help. Your serious attitude and dedication will win people over. A relationship that means a lot to you will have room to grow if you are open about the way you really feel. You have a greater impact on the people around you than you realize. Your numbers are 8, 11, 15, 22, 26, 34, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll discover an interesting pastime that will help you meet new people and excite you about the future. Don't dismiss the possibility of turning something you learn and love to do into a source of revenue. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Test the waters by trying something new. A chance to gather information from someone who least expects you to be snooping will enable you to make a clear-cut decision. Don't let your emotions cause you to make a mistake when you know in your heart what you must do. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be stingy when it comes to your personal needs. It's important that you don't cut corners if you want to get the best results. The alterations you make to your home will help you please someone you respect and care for. Clear the air. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be pulled in too many different directions if you allow others to make decisions for you. Don't bend to the demands being put on you. Consider whether or not the relationships you have with others are to your benefit or not. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stop second-guessing your next move. Time is of the essence so take the steps required to get ahead. Make plans to mingle with people who have similar interests and you will get some much-needed information. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Secrets must be kept if you want things to run smoothly. Don't give information to anyone you think is untrustworthy. A change in your financial situation will cause you to make alterations to your current plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can make an impression by stepping up and responding to a cause you believe in. The satisfaction you get will be accompanied by the respect you gain. Strive for perfection and you will excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may have to tread carefully among your friends and peers if you want to keep the peace. Emotional confrontations will leave you questioning what you are doing with your life. Don't let anyone deflate your ego. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You must spread your wings and fly if you want to get something off the ground. Stop contemplating and start the process of getting things done. Talk from the heart and be utterly open and honest about your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can make headway if you clarify what you need to the people who can help you out. Precision and detail will make your life easier and allow you to enjoy more time with the people you like best. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Start to make the changes that will improve your life and your living conditions. You need the freedom to come and go as you please so your imagination can lead you to a satisfying place. Once you reach your destination, everything else will fall into place. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may end up in a sticky situation if you promised the impossible. You have to be sure of what you can do before you so boldly move ahead. Think before you act and spare yourself grief. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, personable and very interested in others. You are efficient, dedicated, loyal and generous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3			4					5
	5			8			1	
		9				3		
			1		2			6
	2						4	
5			7		3			
		2				1		
	7			2			6	
9					5			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	8	2	4	1	9	6	3
9	2	1	6	8	3	7	5	4
4	3	6	7	5	9	1	2	8
5	6	4	1	2	7	8	3	9
8	9	3	5	6	4	2	1	7
1	7	2	3	9	8	5	4	6
2	8	5	9	3	6	4	7	1
6	4	7	8	1	2	3	9	5
3	1	9	4	7	5	6	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BERNIE MAC (1957-2008) **Solution: 7 letters**

T	D	F	P	F	S	S	E	C	C	U	S	F	R	S
N	R	R	L	A	L	S	G	O	D	D	L	O	I	U
E	H	A	A	O	R	O	S	M	T	I	O	R	N	Y
L	O	N	N	N	R	O	Y	E	P	T	H	I	E	G
A	N	K	Y	S	R	I	D	D	S	C	Q	N	U	E
T	D	S	Y	N	F	E	D	I	H	U	O	E	H	O
A	A	W	R	S	N	O	B	A	E	M	S	S	G	R
M	Z	O	A	I	E	U	R	N	O	S	A	O	U	G
P	U	H	M	E	(L)	L	F	M	W	N	T	U	A	E
A	B	S	Z	C	I	(O)	O	H	E	A	N	L	L	L
Y	A	N	G	E	L	S	(O)	R	N	R	A	M	U	I
J	M	I	S	I	P	M	O	(C)	T	I	S	E	K	M
D	F	M	F	N	C	O	M	E	D	Y	D	N	E	S
T	U	E	I	E	S	M	L	I	F	P	A	R	T	Y
S	E	K	O	J	P	Y	E	L	S	O	B	R	A	D

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Angels, Bad Santa, Bernard, Bosley, Brad, Charlies, Chris, Comedian, Comedy, Cool, Films, Flip, Florida, Floyd, Frank, Funny, George, Gift, Guess Who, Jasmine, Je'Niece, Jimmy, Jokes, Laugh, Life, Lopez, Luke, Mary, Mo Money, Nash, Old Dogs, Parodies, Party, Rhonda, Roles, Roots, Shows, Sitcom, Smile, Soul Men, Success, Talent, Tampa, Transformers, Unique, Zuba

Yesterday's Answer: Glaciers

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

share the power of a wish℠

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"

15 years of making wishes come true!

For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm
M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

Computer Repair

Only $25 Minor Problem

WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS

233-5641 Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom

House for Rent

Centrally located in Garapan, fenced yard, equipped with water reserve tank, split type air-conditioners in every room. Nice and friendly neighborhood.

Available end of June.

Please call 484-0770 for more info.
NMHC applicants welcome!

IN NEED:

COPIER, SPLIT AIRCON (12K, 24K, 28K BTU), TYPEWRITER & OFFICE TABLES.

PLS CALL: 287-0508

2 BR APT FOR RENT

LARGE 2 BEDROOM APT., off Texas Rd. in Susupe, behind Calvo's Nursery, walking distance to MHS. 24 hrs. CUC & rain water. Completely furnished with its own washer & dryer. Bedrooms air conditioned. $500/month. Call Ed at 788-6268 or 235-0409.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

E A T

R ST URAN

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution: Eat out

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of closure. Doko (Saipan) Inc- P.O. Box 501847, Saipan, MP 96950 has closed its local office. Any outstanding unpaid charges should be sent to above address by 06/01/09.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THELMA BRAZAS MALASARTE a.k.a. THELMA BRAZAS BABAUTA, Petitioner, vs. ROLANDO DILAO MALAZARTE Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0072 ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: **ROLANDO DILAO MALAZARTE**

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed withe Clerk of Court at teh Guma Hustisia, Susupe, SAipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgement will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order sahll be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Saipan Chamber of Commerce

Coordinator

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for a methodical and organized individual with initiative and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Job duties include:

- Performance of general office skills;
- Ability to analyze and critique legislation, letters and other documents;
- Ability to work and communicate with various governmental agencies;
- Provision of direct assistance to multiple Chamber committees;
- Preparation of financial invoices; recordation of financial transactions;
- Management of up-to-date, accurate, and organized files for committees, planning meetings, special projects, and workshops; and
- Supporting the Executive Director, Board of Directors, committees, and members.

This is a highly demanding and challenging position. Successful applicants must be adept at working and communicating with the public, must be able to handle many projects simultaneously, and must be able to take initiative and work independently under the general direction of the Executive Director.

Minimum requirements:

- U.S. citizenship;
- Excellent work ethic;
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and own working vehicle;
- Flexibility in work schedule;
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English;
- Competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment; and
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable.

Salary commensurate with experience. Application deadline is **Wednesday, June 3, 2009**. Application forms are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or online at www.saipanchamber.com.

Manager Trainee

If you are a leader with a management background, we would like to meet you.

Minimum Qualifications:

- 2 years experience in managing 10 or more employees
- Must be computer proficient
- High school diploma
- Drivers license / transportation
- Excellent spoken and written
- English communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to meet weekly deadlines

Starting salary negotiable based on experience, and work history. Benefits include100% medical & dental, paid vacations, paid sick time, paid holidays, and more!

No calls please. Send resume' and salary history to:
drtojoanne@teleguam.net/drto@pticom.com

DIAL Rent-to-Own

250 Guerrero Dr. Suite 101
Tamuning, GU 96910

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: May 18, 2009 **Closing date: June 1, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position: 1 (one) ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., June 1, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) plus seven (7) years of progressive responsible experience in accounting or a four (4) year accounting Degree or related field from an accredited U.S. College or University with no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level which two (2) years pertain to supervisory experience. Experience in the use of computerized systems, highly preferred is experience in MAS90. Experience in reconciling accounts receivable, accounts payable, preparation of Journal Entries and Collects.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2009. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-018

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Desktop Computers, Laptop Computers, Batteries, and Laptop Carts for Marianas High School.** The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The bid form is set up as Items "A though D". Bidders may bid on some or all of the items.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-018"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 03, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-021

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Gregorio Camacho (GTC) Elementary School Buildings "F" and "G"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of GTC Elementary School Buildings "F" and "G".

The Scope of Work and detailed specifications are available, for a fee, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, beginning May 22, 2009.

There will be a Pre-Bid conference for interested contractors in the PSS Commissioner's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building on June 2, 2009 at 1:00 PM. The deadline for the submission of questions is June 5, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "PSS IFB 09-021" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office loacated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building no later than June 10, 2009 at 10:30 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

The performance completion date for Building "F" is August 31, 2009 and September 30, 2009 for Building "G".

Technical question should be in writing and addressed to David Loan, PSS CIP Coordinator via fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp. Procurement process questions should be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, PSS P&S Officer via fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Lakers dominate 4th to take Game 5 from Nuggets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Lakers owned the fourth quarter against Denver. Now they have a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Kobe Bryant scored 22 points, Lamar Odom had 19 points and 14 rebounds and Pau Gasol added 14 points and 10 rebounds in Los Angeles' 103-94 victory Wednesday night.

Game 6 is Friday in Denver, where the Lakers lost Game 4 by 19 points.

"Got to come ready to play," Bryant said. "We made a lot of mistakes the last time, the mistakes that took place were execution, and we didn't do things at the defensive end.

"We'll come ready to play."

Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points, hitting 12 of 13 free throws, and Kenyon Martin and Chauncey Billups added 12 points each for the Nuggets.

The teams were tied after the first, second and third quarters for just the fourth time in NBA playoff history.

So it all came down to the final 12 minutes.

Bryant, Odom and Gasol teamed for all but seven of the Lakers' points in the fourth. They opened on an 11-0 run for their first lead of the second half and it was capped by Shannon Brown's jumper that beat the shot clock.

The Nuggets used a 13-6 run to close to 93-89. Linas Kleiza scored seven straight and Anthony had six in the spurt.

But then the Lakers regained control and finished off the victory. They improved to 20-0 in Game 5s at home when a series is tied 2-2.

Bryant said he changed his role from the what it had been in the series.

"It was a big gamble for me coming in, but I wanted to change my approach this game and be more of a decoy," he said after adding eight assists, several out of double-teams in the fourth quarter. "The past couple games they really were loading to my side and I figured I could be a decoy and try to give chances to my teammates."

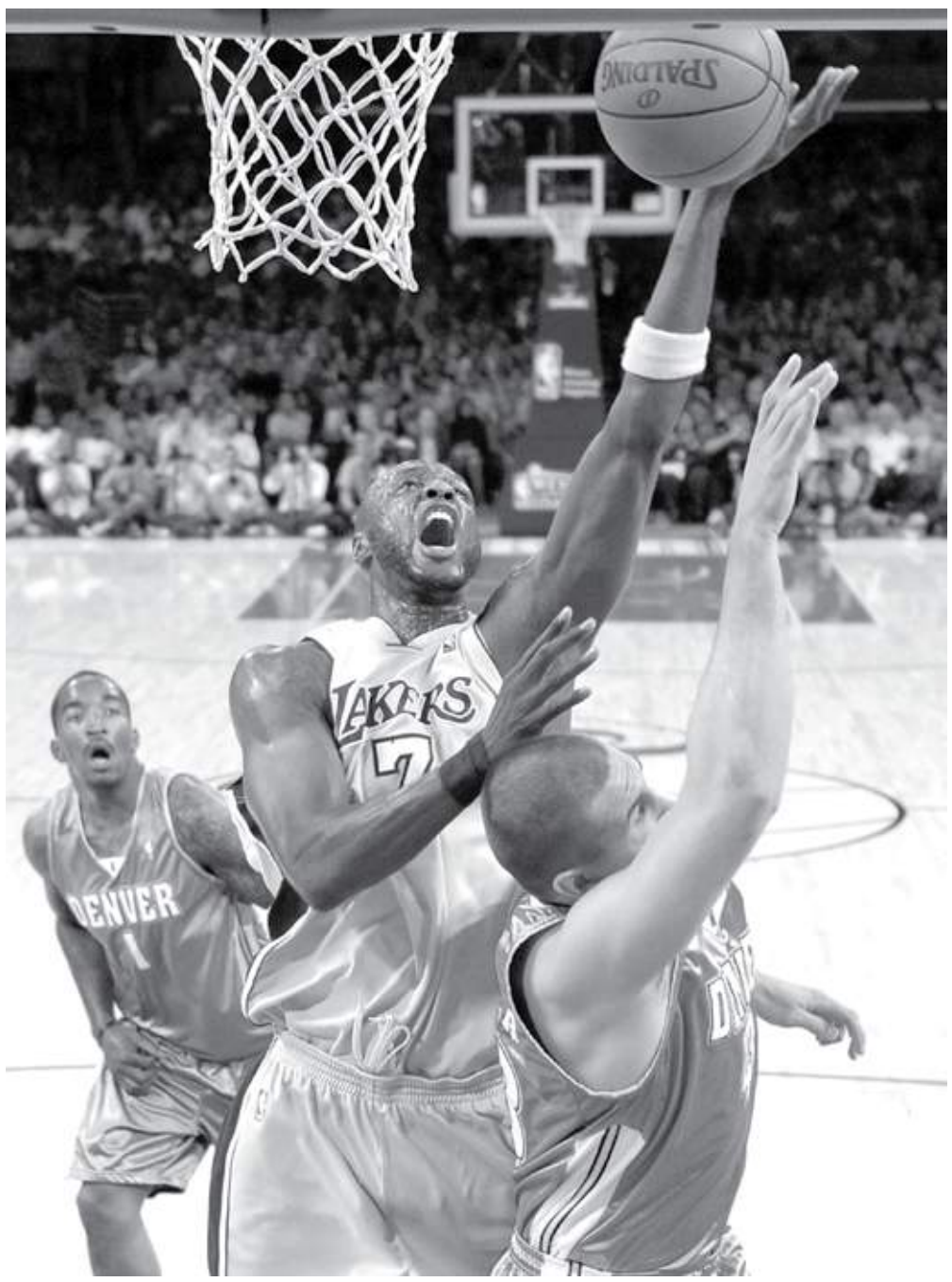
Anthony hit a jumper to get Denver to 96-91 with 1:24 remaining. But the Nuggets went cold from the field over the final 3:38, while the Lakers capitalized at the line. Los Angeles outscored Denver 10-5 in that span, including going 6 of 8 from the line.

Denver returns home needing a victory to send the series back to Los Angeles for a Game 7 on Sunday. The Nuggets have never won a best-of-7 series after losing Game 1.

The good kind of history is seemingly on the Lakers' side. They haven't lost a best-of-7 series that was tied 2-2 after winning Game 5 since the 1969 NBA finals against Boston.

Denver twice led by seven points in the third quarter only to see the Lakers tie it at 76 on a 3-pointer by Bryant to end the period. Los Angeles never led, but managed the two ties.

In a first half featuring 13 ties, the teams ended up even after both the first and second quarters. On the Lakers' final play, Bryant held the ball at midcourt as the clock ticked down before driving and kicking to Sasha Vujacic, who hit a 3-pointer from the left corner to make it 56-all going into halftime. The Lakers were 0 for 7 from long range until then.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom, center, puts up a shot as Denver Nuggets forward Linas Kleiza, right, of Lithuania, defends and J.R. Smith looks on during the first half of Game 5 in the NBA Western Conference basketball finals Wednesday, May 27, 2009, in Los Angeles.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA rescinds technical on Magic's Howard

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard had his technical foul from Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals rescinded by the NBA. Howard was given his sixth technical of the playoffs for taunting Anderson Varejao after a layup in the third quarter of the Magic's 116-114 overtime victory Tuesday night. Cleveland's forward had draped his arms around Howard in a failed attempt to stop him from scoring. The NBA announced it was rescinding the foul Wednesday. Under league rules, Howard would have been automatically suspended for one game if he received a seventh technical during the playoffs. The Magic lead the Cavaliers 3-1 in the best-of-seven series. Game 5 is Thursday night in Cleveland. Howard and Magic coach Stan Van Gundy were baffled by the technical Tuesday, saying after the game that Orlando's center had simply made a big basket and was enthusiastic in the moment.

Phil Jackson: NBA will 'come back and hammer you'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson was unrepentant about being fined $25,000 by the NBA for his criticism of the referees following Game 4 of the Western Conference finals. "I didn't think very good of it at all," he said before the Lakers and Denver Nuggets met Wednesday night in Game 5. "I thought I was very conciliatory, tried to soft-pedal my comments, but that's the league for you. They'll come back and hammer you." The Lakers organization was also fined $25,000 Tuesday, the day after the team's 120-101 loss in Denver that evened the series. "If it was a $10 fine it would still bother me," Jackson said. "Parking tickets still bother me." Jackson was angry with the free throw discrepancy—Denver's 49 attempts were 14 more than the Lakers—and accused the Nuggets' Dahntay Jones of being unsportsmanlike for tripping Kobe Bryant.

Hornets' Chandler, Posey have successful surgeries

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The New Orleans Hornets say center Tyson Chandler and forward James Posey both had successful surgeries for their injuries. Team spokesman Dennis Rogers said late Tuesday that Chandler had a procedure on his left ankle to relieve inflammation and another on his left toe. Posey's surgery was on his right knee. Chandler, who averaged 8.8 points, missed 29 games in the regular season and the last playoff game because of the ankle injury. His trade to Oklahoma City this year was rescinded because of concerns over the toe. Posey, who averaged almost nine points as a reserve, hurt his knee in Game 3 of the first round of the playoffs against Denver but played through it. Both are expected at training camp in October.

Sharapova extends her Slam comeback; Safin loses

PARIS (AP)—On a day of adieus at the French Open, Maria Sharapova managed to stick around.

Trailing through most of the third set in her toughest test since shoulder surgery, Sharapova pulled out a 6-2, 1-6, 8-6 victory over 11th-seeded Nadia Petrova on Wednesday to reach the third round at Roland Garros, her return to Grand Slam tennis.

"I kind of started stumbling away. Things went in the wrong direction," said Sharapova, who missed the U.S. Open and Australian Open. "I was just glad I could pick myself up and keep fighting."

That she did: Five times, Petrova was one point away from serving for the match. But Sharapova didn't allow her to convert those chances.

"She really showed, even though she has been out for a while, she's willing to compete till the end," Petrova acknowledged.

Sharapova's French Open continues, as does Rafael Nadal's winning streak at Roland Garros—which he extended to a tournament-record 30 matches—but there will be no more trips to the clay-court major for Marat Safin or Fabrice Santoro. Both are retiring at season's end, and both bowed out Wednesday, albeit in quite contrasting ways, which is fitting, given their polar-opposite styles of play and personalities.

The big-hitting, loud-talking Safin succumbed after a 4 1/2-hour, five-set bit of theater; the spin-mixing, gentlemanly Santoro played all of 8 minutes to conclude his loss to Christophe Rochus in a match suspended the night before by darkness.

"My game style was out of date when I arrived on the tour. I got on the tour in the '90s, and my style dated back to the '70s," said Santoro, who tied a French Open record by playing in his 20th French Open. "So when I arrived, I was, you know, 20 years late already."

Safin, meanwhile, entertained as only he can, diving for shots, kicking at the clay in disgust, and gesturing at fans to make even more noise when they got on his case for arguing calls. The two-time major title winner eventually was beaten by 134th-ranked Josselin Ouanna of France 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4), 4-6, 3-6, 10-8.

"I played terrible," the 20th-seeded Safin said.

He was done as dusk fell, around the time Venus Williams lost the first set of her match against Lucie Safarova. They were told to pack up, because there wasn't enough light.

Winners included No. 3 Andy Murray, No. 7 Gilles Simon—who eliminated Robert Kendrick, making Andy Roddick the only U.S. man left—No. 8 Fernando Verdasco and Lleyton Hewitt, who faces Nadal next.

Safin's younger sister, No. 1-ranked Dinara Safina, won in straight sets, as did defending champion Ana Ivanovic and 16-year-old Michelle Larcher de Brito of Portugal, who upset No. 15 Zheng Jie of China.

Sharapova had a much longer day's work. But that's OK with her.

The Russian was so disappointed to miss the U.S. Open and Olympics last year, she couldn't bear to watch on TV. By the time the Australian Open came around in January, Sharapova found herself tuning in, then being inspired to head to the gym late at night.

"I know what I'm capable of out there. I know what I've done before. And I know I can do it again and even better," said Sharapova, once ranked No. 1 and now 102nd.

There were moments Wednesday when Sharapova looked as if she'd never been away, pushing Petrova this way and that—particularly while winning the first set's last five games.

There also were moments when Sharapova appeared a step slow—particularly while losing second set's last five games.

So Sharapova found herself playing her second straight three-setter, with rain falling and the temperature in the low 50s. Both women draped towels over their legs during changeovers, and Petrova donned a jacket.

But Sharapova saved six break points in the final set, serving well when absolutely necessary.

"She didn't give me any chance," said Petrova, twice a French Open semifinalist.

When Petrova sent a forehand wide to end the match, Sharapova covered her face with her fists. A moment later, she glanced at the players' guest seats, normally where her father sits. But he isn't at the French Open, because, as Sharapova put it: "After I won my third Grand Slam, he said, 'Look, I like hiking and skiing a lot,' and he kind of wanted to pursue that. So he's currently enjoying his life."

And his daughter is once again enjoying hers. She smiled as she looked up at her coach, Michael Joyce, who traveled back and forth weekly between Los Angeles and Phoenix with Sharapova when she was rehabilitating her shoulder. As Sharapova beamed, Joyce stood and pounded his right fist over his heart.

Big Unit wins No. 299, Giants top Braves

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Randy Johnson earned his 299th victory with six impressive innings, yielding three hits and one run in San Francisco's 6-3 win over Atlanta on Wednesday night.

Johnson (4-4) retired the first nine hitters and 15 of the first 16 in a performance reminiscent of the Big Unit in his prime, although the 45-year-old left-hander has less power and more precision these days.

Cubs 5, Pirates 2

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano went wild in a ball-tossing, bat-swinging tirade after being ejected, and was gone when Reed Johnson hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning for Chicago.

The Cubs ace was tossed by umpire Mark Carlson in the seventh after Nyjer Morgan scored the tying run on a wild pitch, beating catcher Geovany Soto's throw to Zambrano at the plate.

Reds 6, Astros 1

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce homered twice and Bronson Arroyo pitched a five-hitter Wednesday night, leading Cincinnati to a three-game sweep.

Bruce was in a 1-for-18 slump when he hit a solo shot off Felipe Paulino (1-4) in the fourth. His two-run homer off the right-hander made it 5-1 in the sixth and put the Reds in position for their first sweep of the Astros in Cincinnati since May 2004.

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Burke Badenhop pitched five sharp innings for Florida, and Dan Uggla and Cody Ross homered.

Making his first start of the season, Badenhop (3-2) allowed one run and five hits. Matt Lindstrom retired Jimmy Rollins on a liner to center with the bases loaded to end it.

Mets 7, Nationals 4

At New York, Daniel Murphy's tiebreaking homer, a call overturned by umpires in a replay review, led the Mets and an uncharacteristically wild Johan Santana to the victory.

Murphy had a career-best five RBIs and Gary Sheffield hit an early two-run double off rookie Jordan Zimmermann (2-2), helping the injury-ravaged Mets finish a three-game sweep.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Nick Stavinoha had two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run, leading the Cardinals to the win.

St. Louis has won seven of its last nine and hasn't allowed more than three runs in any game in the stretch.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 6

At Denver, Juan Pierre and Mark Loretta hit RBI singles with two outs during a seventh-inning rally, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep.

The Dodgers trailed 3-2 before scoring five times in the seventh, capped by James Loney's three-run double.

Colorado scored three runs in the ninth and had the bases loaded with two outs, but Jonathan Broxton retired pinch-hitter Brad Hawpe on a grounder to end it.

Padres 8, Diamondbacks 5

At Phoenix, Adrian Gonzalez hit his major league-leading 18th home run and drove in three runs, and San Diego won for the 11th time in 12 games.

David Eckstein added three hits and an RBI as the Padres took two of three in a wild series between NL West rivals. San Diego rallied from a six-run deficit to win the opener, then nearly climbed out of a six-run hole in the second game.

Orioles 12, Blue Jays 10

At Baltimore, Nolan Reimold hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the 11th inning to cap a second surprising comeback by the Baltimore Orioles, who beat Toronto to extend the Blue Jays' losing streak to nine games.

Baltimore trailed 8-3 when Roy Halladay left after seven innings, and 10-8 after Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer off Danys Baez in the top of the 11th.

Tigers 8, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Mo., rookie Rick Porcello won his fifth straight start, and Placido Polanco homered and drove in three runs for Detroit.

The Tigers took two of three from the Royals, losing only to Zack Greinke, and increased their lead over KC in the AL Central to four games. The Royals, after a promising April and early May, have lost 13 of 18.

Mariners 6, Athletics 1

At Oakland, Calif., Russell Branyan hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth inning, Erik Bedard for the first time in five starts and Seattle avoided a sweep.

Bedard (3-2) and A's rookie Trevor Cahill (2-5) had strong outings, similar to their matchup here in April. Bedard hadn't won since April 24 against the Angels in Anaheim.

Twins 4, Red Sox 2

At Minneapolis, Daisuke Matsuzaka and the rest of Boston's pitchers tied a modern-day record with six wild pitches while Twins starter Kevin Slowey was the picture of control in Minnesota's victory over the Red Sox.

Matsuzaka (0-3) tied a franchise record set 80 years ago with four wild pitches, while relievers Manny Delcarmen and Justin Masterson also sent catcher George Kottaras scrambling. It was just the fifth time since 1900 that a team threw six wild pitches in a game.

Yankees 9, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, A.J. Burnett pitched six shutout innings to win for the first time in six weeks, Hideki Matsui homered twice and the Yankees gained a share of the AL East lead by beating the Rangers.

The Yankees, who have won 12 of 15, are tied atop the division with Boston. It is the first time this season New York has been in first place in the AL East.

Angels 3, White Sox 1

At Anaheim, Calif., Jered Weaver and Brian Fuentes combined on a five-hitter and Bobby Abreu had two RBIs for Los Angeles.

Weaver (4-2) gave up one run and four hits and struck out eight in eight innings. He has given up one run in four of his last five starts.

Fuentes pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

Indians 12, Rays 7

At Cleveland, Ben Francisco homered and drove in four runs and Cleveland got its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Francisco extended his success against Andy Sonnanstine (3-5) with a three-run homer and RBI single as Cleveland overcame a 5-0 deficit. On Monday night, the Indians came back from 10-0, beating the Rays 11-10 with a seven-run ninth inning.

Ex-Kentucky coach Gillispie sues over firing

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Former Kentucky men's basketball coach Billy Gillispie sued the school Wednesday, seeking at least $6 million he says he is owed on his deal after being fired without cause.

Gillispie, who was dismissed last spring, was working under a memorandum of understanding but hadn't signed a formal contract during the two years he coached the Wildcats.

He contends that under that memorandum, he should be paid $1.5 million a year for four of the five years left on the deal. The suit also asks for an undisclosed amount of punitive damages, attorneys' fees, court costs and interest.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Dallas contends the school's athletics association is in breach of contract and has committed fraud because the university never intended to honor the agreement.

"Rather than honor its written, signed deal with coach Gillispie, defendant prefers instead to pretend as though no deal was ever reached," the lawsuit says. "Unfortunately for defendant, its make-believe world is just that."

Numa Numa, Hits For Brain still perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Numa Numa and Hits For Brains swept their games last week and added one more last Tuesday to remain unbeaten in the Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League.

Numa Numa now has an 8-0 record after winning three games last week and one last Tuesday to keep the No. 1 spot in the team standings in the 12-team field. Hits For Brains went 3-for-3 to improve to a 6-0 slate and remain in second place.

Back-to-back victories Thursday night last week on the Pacific Islands Club sand court allowed Numa Numa to preserve its perfect record. It defeated UMES-SUPUOUT in the first game, 21-18, 21-9, 7-15, and went 2-0 after taming the Angry Red Dragon, 21-13, 21-13, 16-14.

Numa Numa's two other wins were off the Plum Smugglers Tuesday night last week, 21-13, 21-18, 15-8, and against the Spankers, 13-21, 21-19, 15-9, last Tuesday this week.

Hits for Brains started last week's action with a 17-21, 21-16, 15-12 victory over UMES-SUPUOUT. Thursday last week, Hits For Brains topped South Beach, 21-14, 21-18, 19-17 and made it three in a row after outclassing Hoof Hearted last Tuesday, 21-18, 18-21, 16-14.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Yumi Sharry goes for a kill in one of Numa Numa's games in the Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League last week on the PIC sandcourt.

Hoof Hearted is in solo third place, as it swept its assignments last week before bowing to Hits For Brains this week. Hoof Hearted won over South Beach, 21-14, 21-12, 15-7; downed Plum Smugglers, 22-20, 21-12, 16-14; and prevailed over Grace Christian Academy, 21-14, 21-19, 15-13.

Three teams are tied for fourth to sixth place with UMESSUPUOUT, the Spankers, and MHS One Heart holding identical 3-3 slates.

MHS One Heart and the Spankers had one win apiece last week, beating Angry Red Dragon (21, 18, 21-9,7-15) and MHS Bobais (21-15, 21-18, 16-14), respectively, while UMESSUPUOUT dropped all two games last week.

Plum Smugglers went 1-for-3 last week and defeated MHS Bobais last Wednesday, 21-12, 21-16, 10-15, for an even 4-4 slate. Plum Smugglers' lone win last week was against MHS One Heart, 21-19, 21-19, 12-15.

South Beach won via forfeit over GCA last Tuesday to snap its two-game losing skid and improve to a 3-4 slate, while GCA reported for last Wednesday's night game and thwarted We're Here, 25-24, 16-21, 15-10, to gain its second win in seven matches.

We're Here and MHS Bobais occupy the last two spots in the team standings as both squads have only one win. We're Here holds a 1-5 slate, while MHS Bobais has a 1-7 mark after back-to-back losses against Plum Smugglers and MHS One Heart last Wednesday night.

Games in this year's four-person league are played every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The league has round-robin format in the regular season with the Top 8 teams advancing to the playoffs, which will be a single-elimination affair.

Miranda is May Ace of the Month

Joe Miranda topped the Fil-Taga Golfers Association May Ace of the Month Tournament after shooting a net 67 last May 17 at the Marianas Golf and Country Club in Marpi.

Miranda actually carded a gross of 80, but when his 13 handicap was deducted, he came away with the day's lowest net score.

Two Fil-Taga members finished tied with the second lowest net score of 69, but Ted Malaran took second after nipping Rod Nimes on a scorecard tiebreak.

Malaran shot a gross of 87 but finished with a net 69 by virtue of his 18 handicap. Nimes, meanwhile, had a gross of 101 gross but offset the high score with his 32 handicap.

Mando Guban and Richard Meimban completed the Top 5 with net scores of 70 (85 gross, 15 handicap) and 72 (97, 25), respectively.

A total of 19 Fil-Taga members took part in the club's May Ace. The rest of the participants, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Rene Batallones (73); Freddie Cataluna (75); John Matsumoto (75); Manny Po (76); Gil Faler (77); Nazareno (77); Jess Yumul (78); Jhun Calma (80); William Retardo (81); Matutino Adony (81); Jason Gatdula (85); Jojo Geva (87); Mike Cruz (89); and Rey Ferraz (91).

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Mark Rabago)***

ROCK

From Page 36

the IT&E Young Guns last Wednesday. Leftfielder John Reyes went 3-for-4 at bat and scored one run and three RBIs. Three other Rock Steady sluggers, Oliver Sechardmidal, Vince Sablan, and Ed Manibusan, also hit 3-for-4 at the plate. Manibusan and Sablan tallied one run apiece and the former added two RBIs. Sablan and Byron Kaipat added two runs each, while Mike Sablan and Secharmidal nailed one run apiece.

Secharmidal gave Rock Steady its first run at the top of the first on a Manny Sablan single. The Young Guns defense shut out Rock Steady in the next two innings before a John Reyes two-run single and a Manibusan one-run single put Rock Steady in the lead, 4-1.

Tyron Omar scored the Young Guns' first run, as he reached home plate in the third inning on a Rock Steady error. Third baseman Jack Sablan made a one-run double and Tony Palacios had a one-run single in the fifth to keep Young Guns afloat. Young Guns moved within one, 4-5, after seven complete innings following Jack Sablan's one-run single at the bottom of the seventh.

Neither team scored in the eighth inning before a four-run top of the ninth allowed Rock Steady to widen the gap, 9-5.

At the bottom of the ninth inning, the Young Guns had a lot of chances to score as they had runners on the corners with two outs and Ryan Sablan at bat. Oliver Secharmidal, who relieved Tony Celis in the eight inning, had a full count and delivered his sixth pitch against Ryan Sablan. Sablan swung his bat, but ended up with an empty swing, preserving Rock Steady's victory.

The loss also put the Young Guns on brink of elimination as they dropped to a 4-7 slate for fifth place. Only the Top 4 teams after the double-round robin regular season will advance to the playoffs. Likely to make it to the next round and join the Rangers and Rock Steady are D-9ers (7-4) and Tanapag Falcons (5-6).

ADELBAI

From Page 36

Muna, Derick "El Peligro" Rangamar, and Ton "Peskadot" Robert succumbed to superior fighters from the U.S. territory.

As reported in yesterday's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, Muna lost to Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano on a triangle arm lock at just one minute and 12 seconds in the first round.

Rangamar, meanwhile, was beaten via referee stoppage against Justin "The Shocker" Cruz in the 3:31 mark of the second round.

Robert then verbally tapped out before the start of the second round in the his main event bout against former PXC heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong.

In the other Saipan-Guam match-up, Jun "The Ledgend" Taga dropped to 0-2 in Rites of Passage against Guam hotshot Ray "Infamous" Apiag. Taga lost by referee stoppage at the 2:06 mark of the first round.

Guam's Tyler Perrot also came out on top against Palau's Snyder Ongill in their heavyweight battle.

Both weighed in at 220 lbs. with heavy hands and tried to knockout each other in what was one of the most exciting fights of the evening. Perrot ultimately took the win away from Ongill at 39 seconds of the second round via rare-naked chokehold.

Saipan's Louie Crisostomo, meanwhile, got the better of Tinian's Johmar Untalan in the two fighters' debut with the latter tapping out early in the first round, again via rear-naked chokehold.

Local boy Chris "No Luv" Laayug also made his home islands proud after knocking out Kevin "Drop Baby" Esteves of Yap a minute and 56 into the opening round.

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, for his part, warmed up for his Universal Reality Combat Championship bout against reigning lightweight titleholder Edward Folayang by beating Maitai "The Charger" Charley.

Sablan won via referee stoppage at a minute and 40 seconds of the first round after Charley failed to protect himself from the former's flurry of punches.

Team Pwang's Eddie Paulis also won his very first MMA fight after taking out Trench Tech young gun Joe Park at a minute and 19 seconds of the second round.

Like Paulis, Mark "The Dark" Nuique also spoiled the debut of Joe "One Blow" Taga, winning via referee stoppage at two minutes and 55 seconds in the second round.

Fighters from Micronesia were not the only ones in action in Rites of Passage 7 as mixed martial arts enthusiasts from China, the Philippines, and Japan also entered the octagon.

China's Junjie "Tiger" Choi defeated Filipino Aniceto "Gago" Ginaldo at the 2:48 mark of the first round via tapout.

Johji "Akuma" Matsunaga of Japan also came out victorious after beating Mario Reyes of Saipan via verbal tapout a minute into the first round.

Matsunaga's bout, however, was not the easiest of the evening, as that distinction belonged to Lee "Quick" Reyes who took the win without breaking into a sweat after his opponent was a no-show.

LEAN

From Page 36

This weekend marks the first time that SSC swimmers compete in Guam this year since participating in the Guam International Swim Meet in December last year.

Pamaran, Lapuz, and Moran were part of the SSC team that participated in the meet in December and were joined by the Kimball siblings, Chentsova, Blair Nicholls, Abigail Martinsen, and Maxi Braig.

SSC brought home 22 medals from its previous trip to Guam with Grace leading the medal haul, claiming seven gold medals.

Grace won in the 50m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 50m freestyle swims in the girls' 13 to 14 age group.

Martinsen had six medals, two gold, three silver, and one bronze, while Andrew claimed four. Andrew notched two silver and two bronze medals, finishing second in the 200m freestyle and 400m freestyle, and third in the 100m butterfly and 200m IM (3:25.99).

Chentsova and Braig pocketed two medals apiece. Chentsova was runner-up in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle swims, while Braig won in the boys' 9-10 50m butterfly and placed second in the 50m freestyle.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	20	.574	-
New York	27	20	.574	-
Toronto	27	23	.540	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	23	26	.469	5
Baltimore	21	26	447	6

Central Division

Detroit	26	19	.578	-
Minnesota	24	24	.500	3 1/2
Kansas City	23	24	.489	4
Chicago	21	24	.467	5
Cleveland	20	28	.417	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	27	19	.587	-
Los Angeles	24	22	.522	3
Seattle	21	26	.447	6 1/2
Oakland	18	26	.409	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	26	20	.565	-
Philadelphia	25	20	.556	1/2
Atlanta	23	23	.500	3
Florida	22	26	.458	5
Washington	13	33	.283	13

Central Division

St. Louis	28	19	.596	-
Milwaukee	27	20	.574	1
Cincinnati	26	20	.565	1 1/2
Chicago	23	22	.511	4
Pittsburgh	21	26	.447	7
Houston	18	27	.400	9

West Division

Los Angeles	33	15	.688	-
San Diego	24	23	.511	8 1/2
San Francisco	23	23	.500	9
Arizona	20	27	.426	12 1/2
Colorado	18	28	.391	14

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 2
L.A. Dodgers 8, Colorado 6
Florida 6, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 4
Cincinnati 6, Houston 1
San Diego 8, Arizona 5
Baltimore 12, Toronto 10, 11 innings
Detroit 8, Kansas City 3
Seattle 6, Oakland 1
Cleveland 12, Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Yankees 9, Texas 2
Minnesota 4, Boston 2
L.A. Angels 3, Chicago White Sox 1

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	4	0
Advanced	2	1
Fiesta	3	2
PTC	1	2
MBI	1	3
Shirley's	0	3

NMIVA STANDINGS

Numa Numa	8	0
Hits For Brains	6	0
Hoof Hearted	6	2
UMESSUPUOUT	3	3
Spankers	3	3
MHS One Heart	3	3
Plum Smugglers	4	4
South Beach	3	4
Angry Red Dragon	2	4
GCA	2	5
We're Here	1	5
MHS Bobais	1	7

G4S nears first round sweep, Fiesta recovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

G4S moved a win away from sweeping the first round of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after thwarting Pacific Trading Co., 88-74, Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

The victory was G4S' fourth in as many games, strengthening its hold to the top spot and putting the team a win ahead of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Fiesta capped its first round assignment with an 80-67 win over Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and improved to a 3-2 record.

G4S trailed after the first period, as it could not stop Erlan Lansang from scoring. Lansang had 12 first quarter points to lift PTC to a 24-16 lead.

The second quarter was a different story with Lansang slowing down a bit and Jimmy Sison and Nat Banatasa picking up G4S' pace to put their team in the driver's seat at halftime, 46-40. G4S outgunned PTC in the second period, 30-16, with Banatasa and Sison combining for 19 of the team's total output.

G4S kept the lead in the third, 64-57, as Lansang failed to regain his hot-shooting hands, making only two charities in that canto and the rest of PTC players struggled, too.

Junar Guiab finished the job for G4S in the fourth period, nailing 12 of his game-high 26 points in the payoff canto to keep the team's perfect record.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

G4S' Jimmy Sison, left, goes for a fastbreak layup against PTC's Frank Sarmiento during their game in the Shirley's caging Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

G4S will go for a sweep tonight when it faces Advanced X-Terminators in the second match.

PTC, which pulled off a 96-89 upset over Fiesta last Monday, dropped to a 1-2 slate and will play host Shirley's in the first game tonight.

Fiesta ended the first round of the double-round robin league on a winning note with the returning Elmer Esdrelon waxing hot from the 3-point area.

Esdrelon missed Fiesta's game against PTC after sustaining a black eye off an accidental elbow from teammate Badong Camacho during a game in the UFO league last weekend. The Fiesta gunner announced his return in Fiesta's lineup with a barrage of triples, making seven. Esdrelon finished with a game-high 29 points.

He had three triples in the second quarter and scored 11 markers to turn a first-quarter deadlock, 19-all to a 42-32 halftime lead.

MBI cut the lead to five, 49-54, in the third, as Esdrelon was held to two points. In the fourth period, Esdrelon rediscovered his shooting touch, canning three more triples to foil MBI's repeated comeback bids.

The loss was MBI's third in a row after winning its debut against PTC, 75-72, during the opening day of the league.

First Game

G4S 88 – Guiab 26, Banatasa 17, Sison 12, Chavez 10, Soriano 6, Basa 6, Admisen 2.

PTC 74 – Lansang 23, Garon 18, Obnimaga 9, Taisacan 7, Sarmiento 5, Babauta 4, Maglaya 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-24, 46-40, 64-57, 88-74.

Second Game

Fiesta 80 – Esdrelon 29, De La Torre 9, Garcia 8, Jinang 6, Ong 6, Mojar 5, Moran 4, Maliwanag 4, Rodriguez 3, Solidum 3, Salazar 2.

MBI 67 – Barbo 21, Trajano 18, Cordero 16, Achas 6, Sese 4, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-19, 42-32, 54-49, 80-67.

Interesting men's open field in DFS tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

An interesting field in the men's open singles division will spice up the second week of action in the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships this weekend.

The men's open singles will have the Commonwealth's top junior players challenging several veterans and former champions. Junior players Ji Hoon Heo and Woo Suk Chang will be battling the men's open title against CNMI coach Jeff Race, Peter Loken, Tomonori Imazato, and Coconut Classic champion Kirk Schuler.

Also in the draw is Hee Seung Kim, a former CNMI junior player and previously held the most titles in the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships with three, topping the tournament from 1999 to 2001. Heo broke Kim's record last month with the former notching his fourth title. Heo started dominating the CNMI championships in 2006.

All eight players in the men's open draw will begin their title quest today with games starting at 4pm at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

The men's singles will have competitions in three other divisions, namely the 40-and-above, 4.0 and 3.0.

Entered in the men's 40-and-above are Ed Johnson, Dong Min Lee, Gary Ramsey, Richard Brostom, Fernando Cajigan, Gabriel Boyer, and Steve Nutting.

Ramsey will also play in the men's 4.0 singles and joining him in the seven-player field are Dong Ik Jang, Sung Hoon Ham, Denis Karkakin, Hector Benitez, and junior players Rafael Jones and Nathan Nutting.

Nathan's sibling, Andy, leads the men's 3.0 singles participants. Also on the list are Romy Sotto, Diony Peralta, Manny Sitchon, and junior players Clay McCullough-Stearns, Christian Miller, Chris Cajigan, Carl Dela Cruz, and Jake Lee.

The women's singles has only three divisions with junior players Jodel Fernandez, Thea Minor, and Melody Johnson and Kinumi Taniguchi entered in the women's open/4.0 division.

The women's 40-and-above singles also has four players in Cleofe Santos, Matty Buenaventura, Karen Buettner, and Lydia Tan.

The women's 3.0/2.0 singles has a mixed of junior players and beginners. Junior players Ilia Corella, Amy Arenovski, Jeane Bracken, and Negahr Rastguiy will vie for the title against Kelley Butcher, Lihua Liang, Sarah Brostrom, Sakiko Eda, and Vickie Izuka.

Also scheduled in the final week of the DFS netfest are junior doubles competitions.

The boys' 16 doubles will have four pairs in Nathan Nutting and Daniel Park, Jake Lee and Cajigan, Ham and Chang, and Andy Nutting and Rafael Jones.

Sisters Thea and Theecel Minor are the favorites in the girls' 16 doubles. Joining them in the draw are the duos of Arenovski and Bracken, Johnson and Fernandez, and Rastguiy and Corella.

Dela Cruz is teaming up with Moris Villanueva in the boys' 12 doubles and will battle the title against the pairs of Aaron Lee and Tommy Choi, Clayton Izuka and Alex Park, Jordan Butcher and Joel Jang, and Chris Park and Colin Ramsey.

The girls' 12 doubles title will be a toss between the tandems of Mikayla Lopez and Alina Ishikawa and Gabrielle Race and Emily Jones.

Preliminary games will be played today and tomorrow, while title matches are set for Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kirk Schuler, seen here going for a backhand slice in last week's men's open doubles event at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts, will be among the top contenders for the men's open singles title in the DFS tournament this weekend.

Over 100 expected in Friendly Golf Tournament

Mode Tour is expecting 100 golfers in tomorrow's Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament set at the sprawling west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The company's operations manager, M.J. Kim, said of the 100 participants, 48 will be coming from South Korea for a golf tour, while the rest will be local or Korean golfers based on Saipan.

Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament, which Mode Tour is hosting as a big "thank you" to the island community, will have a 8am start time following a 7:30am registration.

Cost to enter is $60, which will include green fee and awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The tournament will adopt a peoria format and will have a shotgun start.

First place will receive a Saipan-Guam roundtrip ticket for two courtesy of Freedom Air, while the runner-up wins a two-night stay with breakfast at the PIC Saipan. Third place is a Saipan-Rota roundtrip ticket for two.

Three hole-in-one challenges are also in store for the island's golf enthusiasts. A successful try in hole No. 3 nets a $500 gift certificate from DFS Galleria Saipan. The winner in hole No. 17 gets a $500 dinner coupon at Monte Vista Restaurant, while a hole-in-one in No. 7 gets the lucky participant a two-night stay at Rota Resort, which includes a trip around the island's scenic spots.

Prizes are also in store for the closest to the pin and longest drives. A bevy of in-kind gifts also await participants in the raffle during the awards banquet.

All participants of the one-day golf event will also take home souvenir Nike golf balls, T-shirts, and ball markers.

Aside from Mode Tour and PIC Saipan, the Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament is also made possible with support from the Marianas Visitors Authority and Asian Airlines.

For more information, call 234-7288 for Korean-speaking participants, while English-speaking participants can call 235-4488. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Tinian Triathlon and Reef Swim set

Tropical weather, turquoise blue water, and a competitive triathlon all come together for a terrific weekend in June 2009 on Tinian island in the Northern Marianas.

The 10th Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim on June 6, 2009, is gearing up for international competitors from Japan and beyond. The triathlon will showcase the natural beauty of the island, including crystal clear water that makes Tinian a divers' and snorkelers' paradise.

"Amazingly clear…that's how some have described the waters of Tinian," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We're pleased to collaborate with KFC Triathlon Club of Japan in again welcoming triathletes and swimmers looking for a memorable event in a scenic and inviting environment."

The triathlon will consist of a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike ride, and 10-km run. For those interested in only the swim, three courses are available: 1.5-km, 3-km, and 4.5-km.

Registration payments may be made in cash at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino poolside on June 5, 2009, from 5pm to 8pm. The pre-race briefing will be held at the same location from 6pm to 7pm, also on June 5. Registration costs are: triathlon ($80), team triathlon ($60/person for teams of two or three), and reef swim ($60). Personal checks are not accepted. Entry fee includes a T-shirt, swim cap, and awards party.

The awards party will be held on June 6, 2009, at 6pm at Taga Beach.

For more information, contact Frank Tudela of MVA at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3200, Bendedicta Borja of MVA Tinian at vborja@mymarianas.com or 433-9365, or KFC Triathlon Club of Japan at kfc-onihsi@gam.hi-ho.no.jp or (81) 428-31-4911. ***(PR)***

Lakers dominate 4th to take Game 5 from Nuggets

Kobe Bryant scored 22 points, Lamar Odom had 19 points and 14 rebounds and Pau Gasol added 14 points and 10 rebounds in Los Angeles' 103-94 victory Wednesday night. 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

G4S nears first round sweep, Fiesta recovers

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Rock Steady disarms Young Guns

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REPORTER

Defending champion Rock Steady closed out strong in the regular season of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball after defusing the IT&E Young Guns, 9-5, Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rock Steady finished the double-round robin regular season with an 8-4 record and is currently in second place behind pennant champion Joeten Motors Rangers. The Rangers won their last game in the regular season, clobbering the Bob O'Connor Tigers last Monday, 19-7, for an 11-1 slate. The Rangers' lone loss was against Rock Steady during the league's opening, three months ago.

Rock Steady lost back-to-back games last week and turned its ire on

See ROCK on Page 34

A Rock Steady batter prepares to hit the ball in one of their games last week in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lean SSC team in Guam swim meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club has only five swimmers who will compete in the 2009 Guam Championships this weekend at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Leading the lean SSC team are siblings Grace and Andrew Kimball. Joining them are Victoria Chentsova, Bryce Daly, and Kento Akimaru. Accompanying the SSC swimmers are coach Mike Villagomez and assistant coach/SSC official Lisa Kimball.

The Guam swim meet will start this afternoon and will run until tomorrow with SSC swimmers joining Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan bets in their quest for medals and CNMI records.

The SSC delegation left for Guam yesterday without senior swimmers Michael Moran, Lester Lapuz, and Junior Pamaran, who could not make the trip due to school commitments.

See LEAN on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bryce Daly, seen here competing in the 100m breaststroke event during the 2009 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi in March, is among the five SSC swimmers who will join this weekend's Guam championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Referee Tony D'Angelo raises the arm of Slade "The Rage" Adelbai of Saipan after he beat Troy "The Destroyer" Munoz of Guam in Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

MARK RABAGO

Adelbai prevents Guam sweep of ROP 7

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Slade "The Rage" Adelbai thwarted a Guam sweep of Saipan fighters after defeating Troy "The Destroyer" Munoz in Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Despite being outweighed by his Guam opponent by 26 lbs., Adelbai used his superior fighting skills and quickness to dominate the fight early and often.

Although Munoz had Adelbai on a headlock in the match's opening round, the latter quickly extricated himself from the hold and the two fought upright for a few moments.

Adelbai then found an opening and brought Munoz down the canvas where he proceeded to mount him and pound him with left and right combinations to the face.

The flurry of punches were too much for the Guamanian and he eventually tapped out with two minutes and eight second elapsed in the opening round.

The win raised Adelbai's record to 8-3-1, while the loss was the third in five tries for Munoz.

Adelbai's victory gave Saipan 1-4 record against Guam in the Rites of Passage. Later in the evening Jay "Taby"

See ADELBAI on Page 34

Now we start

My favorite scene in the movie "For a Few Dollars More" is when Indio is facing off in a gunfight against his nemesis Colonel Douglas Mortimer.

Indio tells the Colonel, "When the chimes end, pick up your gun. Go ahead and shoot me Colonel. Just try."

The Colonel's gun is lying on the ground while Indio has his gun stuck in his belt. Indio has the clear advantage and you know when the watch chimes end, Indio will shoot his adversary dead.

The chimes are slowing down and getting softer. The tension is mounting. You know the time has come when the music is about to stop. Suddenly a new set of chimes appears out of nowhere. They are coming from an identical watch held by Clint Eastwood who has his gun pointed straight at Indio.

Eastwood motions for the Colonel to pick up his gun, puffs his cigar and calmly says, "Now we start."

The stare down continues with a new set of chimes which are sure to end sometime soon, but this time with more even odds between the gunfighters.

That's what the Lakers/Nuggets series has come down to: a suspenseful showdown in a fair fight. And if you consider losing equivalent to death, well then, the analogy is all the more perfect.

The world, especially ABC television executives, wants Kobe versus LeBron. The world may get Chauncey versus Rafer.

The NBA suits got it right by placing the conference finals on consecutive days, thus providing starving fans a steady two-week diet of hardcore hoops. The Western and Eastern Conference finals have become alternating soap operas. For basketball junkies, this is our "Days of Our Lives."

At the start of the series, I didn't really have a favorite team but now I like the Nuggets and want to see Birdman go all the way.

The Lakers need all the home court advantage they can get to get past Denver, a team filled with players with compelling stories such as Chris "Birdman" Anderson who overcame a two-year suspension for hard drug use, Nene who recovered from testicular cancer, and Chauncey Billups, a proven champion with the Pistons, Finals MVP, triumphant in return to his home city, pulling the team together with quiet determined professionalism, truly one of the best point guards in the world today.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

As much as I enjoy watching LeBron play, the odds are against Cleveland advancing. Ninety-six percent of teams down 3-1 end up losing the series. Of course none of those teams had King James who has been unbelievable.

Actually, I hope I'm lucky enough to see any games televised by ABC. Once again, fans on Saipan were insulted and hurt by ABC-7 not airing Lakers/Nuggets Game 3 last Sunday when they could have easily done so. All of the NBA Finals are on ABC, so I have my high-tops crossed.

This is one movie I want to see.